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Thursday, February 12, 2015

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*When ordering use both 17648 & 85704 product codes to have the discount applied. If you cancel your order you must return both products to receive a refund. While stocks last.

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CODE	Type	Each
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Goldscrew Grab Pack

- ✔ Multipurpose
- ✔ Excellent for Softwood & Chipboard
- ✔ Easy-Start Tip

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Specification:
EN 14592.
Contents:
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Rated by the trade

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Prodrive

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Forge Steel Socket Set

67 Piece Set. Features the most popular sized bits in a handy storage case. Satin chrome-plated for protection against corrosion.

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- ✔ High Torque

67 PIECES

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AVAILABLE IN STORE

Net Price Inc. VAT

CODE	Type	Each
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- ✔ 1500H x 600W

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7759D: Depth (min. to max.): 75-90mm. Wall to centre (min. to max.): 65-80mm (depending on use of brackets).
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SAVE UP TO 50%

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AVAILABLE IN STORE

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CODE	Type	H (mm)	W (mm)	Btu	Watts	Was*	Each
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5245D	Curved	1500	600	1771	519	£179.99	£89.99

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Pack of 2

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77761	Angled	White	£12.49
87721	Straight	White	£12.49

Verona Straight

Verona Straight

Verona Angled

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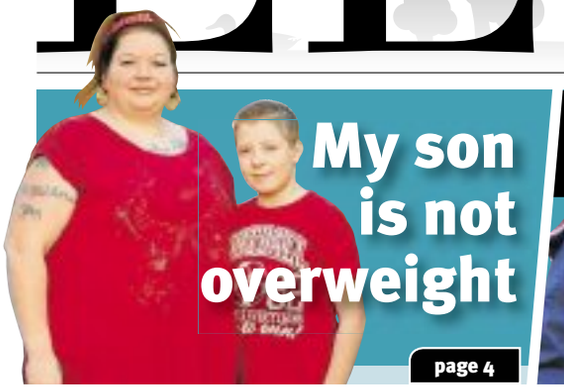

My son is not overweight

page 4

HALF-TERM ROUND-UP

What to do with the kids

The Guide on page 43

20-page property supplement inside

Murder hunt: Pub searched by police

JORDAN **DAY**
@JordanDayCN

THE search for missing Ely landlady Deborah Steel turned to the pub this week where she was last seen 17 years ago.

Officers started to search the Royal Standard pub, in Forehill, on Monday morning as part of the ongoing investigation – but then had to stop after coming across "certain complications" when digging up the cellar.

Speaking to *Ely News*, Mike Connolly, the pub's landlord, said: "They [police] have been digging up the cellar.

"They arrived at around 8am on Monday and were down there for about three hours.

"They then had to stop as they came across certain complications – water I am told – and they haven't been back since. They certainly haven't found anything yet though.

"Police are working around our opening times – it's very much business as usual for us."

On Monday, a spokesman for Cambridgeshire police said: "Police are conducting a search of the Royal Standard pub in Ely, as part of an ongoing investigation into the disappearance of former landlady, Deborah Steel.

"The search is being undertaken with the full consent of the present landlord, who is not connected with the investigation."

Ms Steel, 37, was the landlady of the pub and disappeared on December 28, 1997. Her body has not been found, despite searches by police and several appeals.

In September, excavations took place at a property in Longfields, Ely, which police said was "linked to the disappearance".

Ms Steel's disappearance was reclassified this year from a long-term missing person to a murder inquiry by Cambridgeshire police.

Three men, all from Ely, have been arrested in connection with the case since it was reopened.

Two men aged 50 and 70 were then released without charge in January.

A man, aged 72, has been re-bailed by police to return to Parkside Police Station, in Cambridge, on February 17.

Speaking to the *News* last month, Det Chief Insp Martin Brunning, from the Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire major crime unit, made an appeal for information.

He said: "I am convinced that the answer to Deborah Steel's disappearance lies in Ely and that there are people in the city who can provide key information.

Anyone with any information should call (01480) 425880 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

POLICE SEARCH: Officers investigating the Deborah Steel case have been searching the Royal Standard pub, which is where she was last seen in 1997

Appeal launched after attempted robbery

A POLICE investigation is under way after two hooded men attempted to rob a man in Sutton.

The incident happened last Thursday, February 5, between 9.30-9.50pm, in the alleyway connecting the High Street with Priors Court.

It involved two men, one of whom was about 6ft tall, the other taller; both were wearing hoods.

The two men attempted to rob the 20-year-old male victim, having first asked him for change.

Detective Constable Dan Botterill said: "I want to hear from anyone who may have witnessed the incident or anything suspicious in, or around, the alleyway connecting the High Street with Priors Court.

"I would stress that incidents of this nature in this area are extremely rare."

Anyone with information can contact DC Botterill on 101 or Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111.

OBITUARY

Farewell to Dennis

RETIRED firefighter Dennis Merry was given a hero's send off at a packed funeral at Ely's St Mary's Church.

The congregation, including family, friends and former colleagues dressed in uniform and medals, watched as his coffin was carried, draped in a fire service flag at the funeral on Thursday.

The service heard how Mr Merry spent 24 years fighting fires in Ely, rising to the rank of sub-officer in charge of the retained section before he hung up his boots in 1988.

The proud part-time firefighter also spent many years as a well-known manager of shops including Mackenders in Ely and several local Co-op branches.

During his time in the fire service, Mr Merry – a loving husband to Dora, father-of-two and grandfather-of-four – was awarded a long service and exemplary conduct medal for his devotion to duty.

Mr Merry died peacefully at home on January 14, aged 79, after a short battle with cancer.

He finally lost his battle with the disease after defying the odds to beat it 15 years ago.

GENERAL ELECTION

Questions fired at first hustings event

JORDAN **DAY**
@JordanDayCN

QUESTIONS were fired at the candidates standing for the South East Cambridgeshire seat in the forthcoming General Election.

Voters were able to quiz the candidates at a hustings event held at St Mary's Church in Swaffham Bulbeck on Saturday.

The panel consisted of Jonathan Chatfield (Liberal Democrat), Lucy Frazer (Conservative), Huw Jones (Labour), Debbie Rennie (UKIP) and Clive Semmens (Green Party) who will all be contesting the seat currently held for the Conservatives by Sir Jim Paice who is standing down at the election.

The questions, about which the candidates had no prior knowledge, were presented to the panel chairman, Ian Woodroffe, and each candidate was also given the opportunity to present their arguments on why voters should elect them.

With only 12 weeks to go before the election, another hustings event is being held at Ely Cathedral on Thursday, March 5.

A spokesman for the Ely Cathedral Business Group, which is organising the event, said: "We are pleased to have such high profile local representation from all the main parties.

"We want to encourage people to come along to hear what they have to say and have the opportunity to ask the questions that matter to them. We hope by bringing these key parties together in our magnificent cathedral, members of the community will feel better informed as to which way to vote on May 7."

The event starts at 6.30pm and is free.

QUESTION TIME: From left: Clive Semmens Green, Huw Jones Labour, Jonathan Chatfield Liberal Democrat, Lucy Frazer Conservative and Debbie Rennie UKIP.

CHARITY FUNDING

Joy for Little Miracles

FAMILIES and volunteers from Little Miracles – the Soham-based charity which supports children with additional needs – are celebrating.

The parent-led support group and charity has received a £300 donation from the GALAXY Hot Chocolate Fund. Little Miracles supports families with children who have special needs, disabilities and life limiting conditions.

The group started in July 2013 running a weekly drop-in for a few families and has grown week on week since that time providing sessions, coffee mornings and days out. The charity saw an 85 per cent growth in attendances in 2014.

Justin Heron, from the charity, said: "In view of this demand we are now working really hard towards having our own dedicated centre in Soham which will enable us to provide more sessions, and support more families and volunteering options."

The charity runs a weekly CareGivers coffee morning at Soham's SureStart Centre on Fridays from 9.30-11.30am. For information, email hello@littlemiraclescharity.org.

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Co-op Store, Main Street, Littleport
Wisbech Road Service Station, Littleport
One Stop, Wisbech Road, Littleport
McColls, Main Street, Littleport

LITTLE DOWNHAM
Cost Cutter, 91 Main Street, Little Downham

MEPAL
Mepal Post Office and Stores, 7 High Street, Mepal

SOHAM
ASDA, Clay Street, Soham
Downfields BP Garage, Fordham Road, Soham
Webbs Stores, 16/18 Fordham Road, Soham
The Corner Shop, 72, Hall Street, Soham

STRETHAM
HRM Motors, 37, Cambridge Road, Stretham

SUTTON
One Stop, 22, High Street, Sutton

WILBURTON
Wilburton Post Office, 34, High Street, Wilburton

WITCHFORD
Mrs F Stevinson (private newspaper vendor) 23, Common Road, Witchford
Jet Garage, A142/Witcham Toll

BIG MOVE: Ely's mayor, Lis Every, and city councillors Elaine Griffin-Singh, Nigel Clarke, Michael Rouse, Chris Phillips, Ian Lindsay, John Yates and Alison Arnold outside their new offices.

A new lease of life for courthouse

THE City of Ely Council is due to move into its new offices at the magistrates' court today.

The council will vacate its current offices, in Market Street, and be based at the courthouse, in Lynn Road.

The 19th century courthouse has stood empty since 2011 when it was closed by the Ministry of Justice. However, in 2013, the council managed to purchase the building . . . for £1.

Since then, the Grade II listed building has been extensively refurbished in time for the big move.

The council also has plans to include community uses within the building, such as museum and art gallery space.

TRANSPORT

Greys' apology to United fans

JORDAN DAY
@JordanDayCN

GREYS of Ely have apologised to football fans who missed some or most of last week's Cambridge United and Manchester United game due to coaches breaking down.

Although the two coaches which broke down were not actual Greys' vehicles, they were from operators appointed by the Witchford-based firm.

Dave Doggett, chairman of Cambridge United, is inviting fans who missed most of the game to the R Costings Abbey stadium for VIP treatment.

He said seeing people arrive more than an hour into the game because one of the club-organised coaches breaking down "took the shine off" last Tuesday's historic visit to Old Trafford, where the U's put in a proud display against the likes of Wayne Rooney and Angel Di Maria.

The coach broke down amid heavy traffic between Cambridge and Manchester. The departure had already been delayed because a boat was being escorted as a special load by police in Newmarket Road.

Many fans felt the club was cutting it fine with the coaches not leaving until about 1.45pm.

Mr Doggett said all three main routes between Cambridge and Manchester were affected by traffic incidents.

He said: "We are going to invite them to the club as VIPs to one of our matches.

"Some of our fans missing 60-70 minutes [of the game] just took the shine off it for me."

Those who made it to the ground were treated to a battling display as Richard Money's team lost 3-0, calling time on the cup.

Richard Grey, managing director of Greys of Ely, based in Witchford, said: "Greys of Ely, with the kind assistance of other local coach operators, transported over 1,600 Cambridge United fans to Old Trafford.

"Unfortunately a small number of the 30 plus vehicles Greys sourced for the club to transport fans encountered a number of unforeseen problems on the way and this sadly lead to them arriving after the kick-off.

"These two vehicles were not operated by Greys, however we were able to offer assistance to the operator of these vehicles and help get the fans on their way as quickly as possible.

"We would like to offer our sincere apologies to all of those who were affected by the delays.

"We have secured a refund from the operator and offered this to the chairman of the club who we hope will pass this on to the fans."

Have your say at ely-news.co.uk

CCTV

Planning application could lead to wireless CCTV issues being resolved

CCTV issues in Ely and Soham are a step closer to being resolved thanks to a planning application submitted to the district council.

Cambridge-based firm, Air Broadband Ltd, has applied to 'mount communication antennae' on Ely Cathedral's West Tower.

In their application, they said: "Mounting of communication antennae on Ely Cathedral West Tower to enable CCTV cameras in Ely and Soham to use a wireless system.

"In addition the antennae will provide superfast broadband to those areas that are currently poorly serviced and/or are unlikely to be reached by Connecting Cambridgeshire plans."

Speaking to *Ely News* last September, the City of Ely Council said "technical issues" had arisen with a new wireless CCTV system being introduced.

As a result, certain areas of both Ely and Soham have been without CCTV coverage, however the council said that police had "increased patrols in key areas".

Among those affected is Penny Williams, owner of 3At3 Delicatessen and Cafe, in Three Cups Walk, as the planters on the wall around the business were smashed last month – and police told her there was not much they could do as the CCTV there isn't working.

A decision on the antennae application is expected within eight weeks.

DEVELOPMENT

Plans to give firms – and birds – a boost

AN expanding jewellery business has submitted plans to build eco-friendly offices in Little Downham.

Mr and Mrs F Gris currently run Marjo and Sundari, two separate jewellery businesses, from a container dwelling next to their home in Third Drove.

But the couple have applied to East Cambridgeshire District Council to build new offices, which would not only enable the businesses to expand over the next decade – but also double up as a haven for local birdlife.

The proposed single-storey building not only boasts solar panels and an area of grass roofing, but also a bird observatory, water pool to "encourage animal inhabitation" and holes punched into one of the walls to act as bird homes.

In a statement to planners, agents said Mr and Mrs Gris have a "love for wildlife" and that they recently planted a forest next to their home.

To have your say, visit www.eastcambs.gov.uk.

Laughs aplenty at Over 60's lunch

SOHAM Over 60's Club held its annual lunch and entertainment on Saturday.

Members and their guests enjoyed a four-course lunch, grand raffle and entertainment at the town's Walter Gidney Pavilion.

The club was founded in 1948 to continue the community spirit that had prevailed in the Second World War.

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HEALTH

'My son is not overweight'

JORDAN **DAY**
@JordanDayCN

A MUM is furious that her "fit and active" son has been described as 'overweight' by the NHS.

Coralyn Hobbs, 35, insists her son, 11-year-old William Barnes-Hobbs, is not overweight and says it is "disgraceful" that children are being labelled.

William, a pupil at Ely St Mary's Junior School, had his weight and height measured at school as part of Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust's National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP).

At the time he was measured, which was on February 3, he weighed 43.5kg and was 144.4cm tall, which, according to the programme, makes him 'overweight'.

A letter sent home to his parents suggested lifestyle changes they could make.

Coralyn, who lives with her partner, Ian Barnes, William and their daughter, Kayleigh-Jane, in Prickwillow, said: "I think it's disgraceful that children are being categorised in this way.

"William isn't overweight. He's perfectly proportioned.

"He eats healthily, including his five fruit and veg a day. He also eats a lot of homegrown things, including home-reared meats.

"He's an extremely fit and active boy. He plays a lot of sport, cycles every day and is generally always outdoors.

"Yet he's labelled overweight. It's wrong."

Coralyn said: "I feel hurt for him and all the other children who are labelled overweight or obese.

"The sad thing is that these days, unless you're stick thin, you're automatically classed as overweight.

"It's not fair and certainly not good to be encouraging children to think like that when all you hear is that eating disorders are on the rise."

Mandy Mayes, lead nurse for the NCMP in Cambridgeshire, said she recognised the programme can be a "sensitive topic".

She said: "We would like to reassure parents that, along with trusts across the country, the NCMP team uses a nationally accredited NHS measure to establish a child's weight status, taking into consideration their age, height and sex.

"This information is then shared with parents or carers who are offered further support to make any lifestyle changes they may wish, which is entirely voluntary.

"We do recognise this can be a sensitive topic and would encourage parents to contact us if they wish to discuss any aspect of their child's health."

The NCMP measures children in Reception class and Year 6.

Visit www.hscic.gov.uk/ncmp.

UPSET: Coralyn with her son William

Have your say at ely-news.co.uk

CRIME

Over £1,000 worth of tools stolen

TOOLS worth more than £1,000 have been stolen from a van in Littleport.

The vehicle had been left under a car port at a property in Millpit Furlong when it was broken into overnight on Sunday.

The equipment stolen included a Leica laser level, a Bosch power drill in a blue box, a Ryobi power drill in a grey box, drill bits in grey and green plastic box, a power saw and a Stihl disc cutter.

Police are urging residents not to leave tools and equipment in vans overnight.

Anyone with information about where the tools are now or the theft itself should contact Pc Steve Gilbey, at Ely CID, on 101, or Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555111.

CRIME

Police urge residents to be vigilant against petrol scam

A PETROL scam epidemic has hit major roads in Cambridgeshire – triggering a warning from police.

Fraudsters claim they have run out of petrol and need money from members of the public.

Officers have received 12 reports of incidents between January 26 and February 3 whereby a man who claimed to have run out of fuel flagged down vehicles and asked for money for petrol.

He then gave a business card and gold jewellery to those who handed over money as guarantee he would pay them back. On a couple of occasions the man has accompanied the victim in their car to a nearby petrol station, with another man, sometimes two, following behind in the fraudster's car.

The man is described as in his late 40s to early 60s, of Middle Eastern appearance, with dark hair, between 5ft 4ft and 5ft 8in and heavy build.

People are being asked to be vigilant and report any suspicious activity to police by calling 101.

Award for Ely News reporter

ELY News reporter Jordan Day was named Journalist of the Year at an awards ceremony at Huntingdon Racecourse on Friday night.

The Excellence Awards were open to all staff working for the Central and East division – which includes Cambridge, Northampton, Luton and Milton Keynes – of national newspaper group Local World, which owns Ely News.

Wendy Davey, editor of Ely News, said: "This was very well deserved. Jordan is a talented journalist and is passionate about Ely and the area we cover.

"It is great that his talents and dedication are being recognised with this award."

REPORTER OF THE YEAR: Jordan Day, centre, with managing director, Richard Duxbury, left, and Mick Crawley from award sponsor Westferry

ILLEGAL PARKING

Games of 'cat and mouse' at school gates

A PCSO has likened catching parents parking illegally outside schools in the Ely area to a game of "cat and mouse".

Jonathan Hall, based in Littleport, told residents on Cambridgeshire police's Ecops messaging system, how when he worked for the RSPCA the most dangerous animal he dealt with was cats.

He said: "These days I no longer deal with such incidents. Or so I thought. Now take a parent, they are normally cute, purring, very pleasant, they might even engage in a little chat. But if the situation is right such as the school run, a game of cat and mouse unfolds.

"The parent (not all) will pretend they have not seen you, as they park their car on double yellow lines.

"Once parked the charade will continue, even if you stand next to the car, hoping your presence will resolve the situation. When challenged, the parent will be become an angry creature, hissing their annoyance at being challenged over their dangerous parking.

He added: "When your local PCSO is at your school, please remember we are there to prevent accidents. Accidents that might involve a child, or parent."

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Parties clash on road safety

JORDAN **DAY**
@JordanDayCN

A ROW has erupted between the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats at East Cambridgeshire District Council – and road safety is at the centre of it.

The Lib Dems want the authority to set up a special fund to help support road safety schemes in the district.

The proposal would have enabled £40,000 a year to be spent on projects such as pedestrian crossings, but was turned down by the Tories, who have a majority on the council's corporate governance and finance committee.

Lib Dem Cllr Gareth Wilson, whose ward is Haddenham, has described the rejection as "very disappointing".

But Soham-based Conservative Cllr James Palmer, leader of the council, described the Lib Dems' reaction as "spurious electioneering" and said the only reason the proposal was refused is because highway improvements are the responsibility of Cambridgeshire County Council.

Cllr Wilson said: "In our market towns and villages there are lots of opportunities for a small amount of money to make a large difference to safety on our roads. It's very disappointing that the Conservatives didn't support this small but potentially life-saving investment."

Lib Dem Cllr Alison Whelan, a member of the City of Ely Council and who has been backing residents' calls for a new pedestrian crossing to be built in Ely's Lynn Road, described the decision as "regrettable".

She said: "Residents are keen to see much-needed safety measures on our roads. A small amount of money from the district council would have been very helpful for schemes across the area.

"It's regrettable that the Conservatives, who are throwing millions of pounds at their new leisure centre on the A10, failed to back this move."

Cllr Palmer said: "The Lib Dems wanted us to commit £40,000 a year to fund something that is already covered by the county council through their Minor Highways Improvements Scheme.

"Sadly it is a tactic of the Lib Dems to work in this manner which has little to do with an actual ability to deliver and more about the forthcoming election. The way to successfully achieve highways improvements is through the local county councillor and parish council, as has been achieved in Fordham and Kennett recently."

The Minor Highways Improvements Scheme allows local communities to apply for up to £10,000 as a contribution to their project. To be eligible they have to supply at least 10 per cent of the overall cost. Visit www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

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Letters

Ely News is your local newspaper for the city and surrounding areas. We pride ourselves on producing publications for the community and about the community and aim to provide the very best service for readers and advertisers.
At the same time, we are constantly looking to improve our titles and are always happy to hear from you with suggestions and comments. If you have any feedback for us please contact the relevant person or people listed.

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Action please!

SO, Lucy Frazer (PPC for S.E.Cambs) is "thrilled" that the government appears to be giving funding towards the Ely by-pass is she?
Whoopee! She's not the only one – we'll be even more thrilled when someone actually sticks a shovel into the sod and gets a move on.
Graham Jones
Windmill Close
Ely

Animal magic

JUDGING by the number of snapping tourists enjoying the winter sunshine on Palace Green this morning and the large flock of highly photogenic ducks who had arrived for their photo shoot in front of the Sevastopol cannon I guess I'm surprised by the news that Dean's Meadow will soon be horse-free.
Maybe there's a plan for sheep, I don't know. Stephen Bourne is quoted as saying that "the main reason for plans to vacate the land is for maintenance"; sheep have been doing that for even longer than the cathedral's been there, and it's rare that they don't turn up for work.
There have been incidents when people have been "bitten"? Yes, that'll be when someone approaches any wild animal (horse, sheep or lion) and places a hand in their mouth.
Maybe it's an idea not to do that and to ensure that our children don't either.
That rising view towards the south side of the cathedral is only ever enhanced by the presence of animals. Or fireworks. Constable understood that, except that he couldn't paint a Roman Candle to save his life. But check out one of his many views of Salisbury Cathedral and you'll see what I mean. And while the 13th century Porta might well be on the top ten list of must-sees in Ely I wouldn't mind betting that an encounter with unexpected furriness just a few footsteps from it would rank high as well.
Ask any child, in a myriad of languages.
David Learner
Mr Simms Olde Sweet Shoppe
High Street
Ely

Will you stand?

THERE is a danger that City/Parish Council elections can easily be overlooked in the run up to General and District Council elections.
There has been a long, long history of this in Ely where poor publicity has led to the subsequent shortage of candidates for the City Council and this in turn has resulted in councillors being "elected uncontested" and any further vacant seats being filled by "co-opted councillors".
In order to trigger a full election there must be more candidates than seats in each ward.
This year we will be electing a new Member of Parliament and district councillors, this is the ideal opportunity to have a City Council election as well.
This is an exciting time to be a city councillor, the government is devolving power and money down to the "grass roots" and Ely City Council will soon take over its new offices in the Courthouse and is now responsible for running the Maltings for the benefit of the community.
We are a growing and thriving city with many talented people of all ages and from all walks of life whose expertise and experience could benefit the whole community and influence the future of Ely.
Ely City Council is non political and so candidates do not need to be affiliated to or nominated by a political party. Nomination forms and details are available from the Legal and Democratic Services department at ECDC, details are also available from Ely City Council. Nominations must be submitted by the April 9.
In 2011 there were only 11 nominations for 15 seats and so the 11 were all elected uncontested. However members of the public were alerted to this and 14 people were able to put themselves forward for the co-opted seats showing that there was a real interest in becoming a city councillor. The 11 councillors voted for them based on name-free written statements.
We should make the most of the opportunity this year by spreading the word, standing for the council or supporting people who are willing to use their time and talents for the benefit of their local community.
E.M. Hunter
Prickwillow Road
Ely

Needs or wants

THANK you Councillor Ian Allen for, once again, alerting us council tax payers to the impending catastrophic financial mismanagement being proposed by the Alice in Wonderland leaders of Ely district council. The figures revealed by Councillor Allen in last week's *Ely News* are stark and very frightening. Disposing of major capital assets and taking on large long term debt in these times of on-going austerity is clearly ridiculous to everyone except, apparently, the council; perhaps ECDC have been taking financial advice from the Greeks?
ECDC needs to inject some realism into its medium term plans and not remain confused between "want" and "need". The leaders seem to think that Ely "needs" a massive new out-of-town leisure complex. It may "want" this, based on the dubious results of a public consultation in which the members of the present well equipped, well run, well used, centrally located sports centre which is the Paradise, (incidentally the ONLY sports complex in the district that makes money) were not even consulted! Has it also escaped the attention of ECDC that we already have a cinema and a swimming pool?
As an engineer I am firmly of the belief, "if it ain't broke, don't fix it!"
So, in these austere times with Tesco no longer supporting the Angel Drove redevelopment and the southern bypass not yet fully funded it looks like most of that ill thought-through collection of "ego projects" called the Ely Master plan is dead in the water, now perhaps ECDC can focus on the "needs" of the majority not the "wants" of the few in power.
East Cambs urgently "needs" more affordable housing, we do not "need" an out-of-town leisure complex;
East Cambs urgently "needs" decent access to the rail station for public transport, pedestrians and cyclists, we do not "need" an ugly sprawling out of town retail development; East Cambs "needs" to focus on delivering essential services including an energy security strategy that will keep our lights on and if further cost cutting is required then take out some highly paid senior management instead of making undervalued, demoralised front line staff redundant.
Rod Hart
City Road
Littleport

Eroding times

IN 2012 John Crawford, a professor at the University of Sydney discussed the issue of topsoil erosion. He noted that about 40 per cent of agricultural soil around the globe is currently classified as degraded or seriously degraded. Seriously degraded means that 70% of the topsoil (the layer of soil in which plants grow) has already disappeared. Fighting over whether or not climate change is real or whether man-made or not is irrelevant. Arguing over whether the temperature is actually rising or falling is a waste of time.
The facts are that the global landscape is changing and food security is no longer certain even if you have a lot of land.
■ Water scarcity is getting worse as aquifers are drained faster than they can be refilled.
■ Soil erosion and degradation is rapidly getting worse.
■ Air and water pollution are worsening.
■ Land is turning into desert and with it losing biodiversity of both plant and animal life.
■ Everything is getting more toxic and according to some scientists, there is approximately 50-60 years' worth of what we have now before we reach a point at which nature may not sustain us on any front be it water, air or soil quality.
The answer is to alter our agricultural practices in such a way as to return and confine organic matter and carbon in the soil.
Soil is connected with so many things: health, the environment, food security, climate, water. For example agriculture is estimated to account for 70% of our fresh water use. If soil is not fit for purpose, that water will be wasted.
Given the enormous potential for conflict over water in the next 20 years, it is ridiculous to keep degrading the soil at such a rate.
Restoring the water cycle in our environment – by sequestering carbon in our soil – will not only make our food supply more secure, it can also help moderate changes in climate.
Sequestering carbon in the soil will not only lessen the carbon dioxide load in the atmosphere. Once in the soil, the carbon does many beneficial things including holding water.
A mere 1% increase in organic soil carbon means an acre of land can hold an additional 20,000 gallons of water.
If water can be kept in the soil then that soil is supporting life.
Mr Geoffrey Woollard continues to criticise the National Trust who have safeguarded the remaining peat soils from further erosion.
I wonder should he ever get his way and the soil is returned to the agricultural community whether he would endorse more sustainable methods of farming.
I would hope so.
Kate Travers
High Street
Sutton

Out of touch

AS a single parent I agree whole heartedly with the letter saying the cathedral is out of touch with its over pricing.
The needlework exhibition price of £8 per head means many of us are blocked from entering.
But this is not the only thing the cathedral is out of touch on; we have 1,400 Christian Saints and Martyrs, but the cathedral ignored these and recently had an exhibition of a girl from WWII called Ann Frank.
The cathedral seemed not to know that Ann Frank's uncle admitted the whole story was concocted by her father; he was found out because the diary was written in a ball point pen which was not invented until many years after.
Gemma Harris
New Barns
Ely

Don't bin it!

WITH three months to go until the general election, the campaign trail is hotting up and election literature is being produced thick and fast. We'd like to ask your readers not to throw away anything they receive, but to send it to us for an archive which is helping to capture Britain's political history.
Here at the University of Bristol's Special Collections Library, we hold an extensive archive of over 30,000 election addresses for every British general election since 1892. We believe it's the biggest of its kind in the UK, with literature from all the prominent politicians of the 20th Century.
We're looking for election addresses, manifestos, and related publicity from any constituency and party to help researchers in the future get a clear picture of how the general election of 2015 was fought, capturing which issues were of interest to the electorate and candidates.
With the public's assistance, we hope to collect a broad range of publicity for the upcoming general election on May 7. We cover all 650 seats in

Letters of the month

You could win a boxed Sheaffer pen, if your letter is chosen as our letter of the month. Remember to include your name and full address

OUR POLICY
Please enclose your full address and daytime telephone number. Keep your letter to no more than 250 words. Ely News reserves the right to edit material. Letters should arrive by noon on the Monday before publication

WRITE TO
Letters to the Editor, Ely News, 27 Market Place, Ely CB7 4NP

EMAIL
editorial@ely-news.co.uk

England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales so need help from far and wide. If you feel able to help, please do donate any election material you come across rather than throwing it away.
Please send election addresses, manifestos, and related publicity from any constituency and party to:
Special Collections
Arts and Social Sciences Library
University of Bristol
Tyndall Avenue
Bristol
BS8 1TJ
Hannah Lowery
Archivist in the Special Collections Library at the University of Bristol

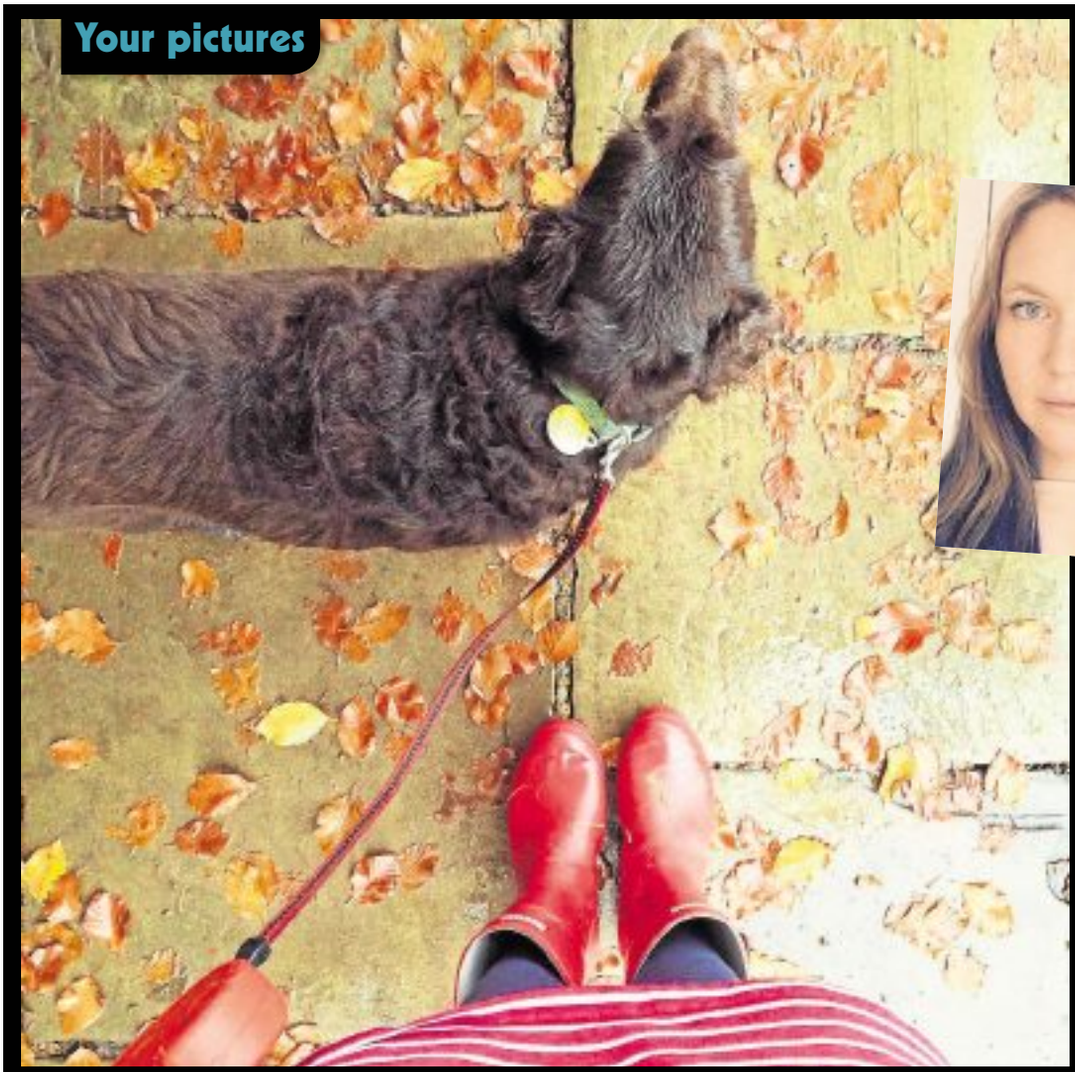
Love the library

SOHAM is extraordinarily fortunate to have a library, not just any library but a well resourced one with helpful staff.
There are loads of provisions for children in particular. Saturday was National Libraries Day with a treasure hunt for children, sweets in dishes, information and a board at the entrance with adhesive notes pages provided for people to comment on what they like about their library.
Given there are no longer individual managers the sole person on duty had the task of putting everything together. I watched people looking, shrugging and walking past without writing a comment, some of similar age to my own.
Despite quite a few people there with their children, apparently none took part in the treasure hunt.
The only comments made, other than my own, seem to have been made by people who were attending a museum event.
I wonder when people will start caring about the fact that our library is at risk of closure; please stop taking it for granted. When I was a child, living with my grandfather in Stamford while my father was away fighting in WWII, my mother had to pay a subscription to use the Boots Library and I remember the excitement of clambering up the steps with her to choose books. As a result I have never taken a library for granted either here or when working in the U.S.
I urge all those who use the library to please stop being complacent and cherish what you have by making an effort to take part in any relevant event and complete the various consultations that arise.
D Donald
Soham

Superb service

REGARDING George Ginn's letter of January 29: I was obliged to attend Ely Hospital with a broken thumb (by taxi), and also referred to Addenbrooke's A&E for X-rays etc. In my case the service was superb with no delays anywhere in my journey to Cambridge (by ambulance).
Furthermore during my three days in the hospital I received the utmost care and treatment etc., and they even provided a taxi to bring me home.
Therefore I must refute all the criticisms I have read about these hospitals and the NHS in general.
RA Furness
Elizabeth Court
Sutton

Your pictures



OUR PHOTOGRAPHER THIS WEEK IS JESSICA TRENT, FROM ST JOHN'S ROAD, ELY, WHO IS PICTURED ABOVE RIGHT.

ABOVE: Morning walks around Ely; LEFT: Looking across Palace Green to the Cathedral; Looking up... Ely Cathedral.

We love to see your pictures. Send them in JPEG format marked 'Your Pictures' to wendy.davey@cambridge-news.co.uk. Please add your name, address and daytime telephone number, where you took the photo and, if possible, a picture of yourself! We reserve the right to reuse pictures at our discretion.

Clean them up!

I TOTALLY agree the toilets in Ely are all closed too early, but something else has come to my notice, as I have been round them all to inspect them: two I came across were filthy, the walls needed washing and ceilings were dirty and splattered all over and the others were not up to standard either.
Are the people who clean these toilets being checked that they are doing the job properly or are they some sort of contractors the council has no control over?
Some people do not know it, but there are toilets in the centre of Ely which have been closed for years. They are underground on the market area.
They have no disabled access, but for able bodied people, they could be a big asset. I think our district council should really gets to grips with this, and have these toilets open longer and get them cleaned up as well.
If the cleaners are not doing their job then get some people who will do the job.
At the moment Ely toilets are a disgrace.
Eddie Holden
Ely Road
Little Downham

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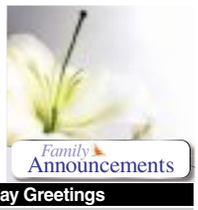

Family Announcements

Valentines Day Greetings

ASHTON Dave Happy Valentines Day Babe. Thanks for being the best husband ever! I love you more than you'll ever know. Jo XXXX

MISSEN Pauline Louisa Turner Pauline your my weakness i need you in my life there"s no one else i want as my wife You give me feelings i can no longer deny I admit i truly love you please stay by my side Happy Valentines Darling Love you always xxxxxxxxxxxxx Ray

SMITH Benjamin I love you so much, you have shown me what love is about and make me feel so special. Thank you for being amazing. Happy Valentines day Sharon

WATSON YVONNE I love you Yvonne you are a great wife,happy valentines day xxxxx Neil

Deaths

BUTCHER Colin

Of The Brambles Littleport

Passed peacefully away at Addenbrokes Hospital Cambridge on Monday February 2nd 2015 aged 76 years.

Dearly loved husband of Sandra, loving father of Amanda, father-in-law of Kevin and dear grandad of Christopher, Ben and Katie.

Funeral service at Fenland Crematorium March on Wednesday February 18th at 1.30pm.

No flowers by request, donations if desired for The Stroke Association will be gratefully received at the service or c/o

A.G Carter
Funeral Director,
6 Froize End,
Haddenham,
Cambs CB6 3UQ

Deaths

CATCHPOLE Shirley Anne

Passed away peacefully at Woodlands Care Centre on Tuesday 27th January 2015 aged 79 years.

A devoted and much loved wife, mother and grandmother.

Funeral service to take place, 1.45pm at Cambridge City Crematorium East Chapel on Friday 27th February.

Family flowers only but donations if wished, made payable to MS Society (Cambridge Branch) may be sent to

Richard Stebbings Funeral Service Ltd, Kendal House, Cambridge Road, Impington, Cambridge CB24 9YS.
Tel. 01223 232309.

Deaths

GILBERT Wally

Of Little Downham

Passed away peacefully in Princess of Wales Hospital, Ely on Friday 30th January 2015 aged 89 years. Husband of Yvonne, father of Stephen and Susan, Fraser and Elaine and loving grandfather and great-grandfather.

Thanksgiving Service at St. Leonard's Church, Little Downham on Monday 16th February 2015 at 12.45pm.

Family flowers only, but donations, if desired, for Welney Ward, Princess of Wales Hospital, may be left at the service or sent to

Ely Funeral Service,
4 Tower Road,
Ely, Cambs
CB7 4HW.
Tel: 01353 666566

HYMUS Jack "Lester"

Suddenly at his home in Soham on Sunday 1st February, 2015 aged 68 years. Precious husband of Jackie, adored dad of Amanda and Michaella, dearest grandad to Conor, Jasmine, Haydn, Luca and Elsie. A dear brother and friend to many.

Funeral service at Cambridge Crematorium West Chapel on Thursday 12th February at 12.00 noon.

Flowers, or if preferred donations for SAND may be left at the service or sent to

C. E. Fuller & Co,
23 Hall Street,
Soham, Cambs,
CB7 5BN.
Tel: 01353 720439

Family Announcements

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Family Announcements

Deaths

JOHNSTONE Stella

Of Littleport

Passed away peacefully on Monday 2nd February 2015. Precious and much loved wife of Jim, loved and adored mum, grandma and great-grandma, sister and aunt.

Funeral service to be held at St George's Church Littleport on Thursday 19th February at 2:30 p.m. followed by committal at Cambridge Crematorium.

Family flowers only, donations for St George's Church, Littleport may left at the church or sent to

C. E. Fuller & Co,
23 Hall Street,
Soham, Cambs,
CB7 5BN,
Tel. 01353 720439

LANT Mildred May

Of Ely, formerly of Haddenham, passed away peacefully at Baird Lodge on Friday 30th January 2015, aged 95 years. Mildred will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

Funeral Service at Fenland Crematorium, March on Thursday 19th February at 1.30pm. All are welcome.

Family flowers only please, but if desired, donations, made payable to R J Pepper Donation Account (to be equally divided between Baird Lodge Social Fund and Cancer Research UK) may be sent c/o R. J. Pepper & Son Family Funeral Directors, 27, High Street, Soham, Ely, Cambs, CB7 5HA or at the Service.
Tel: 01353 720222.

Deaths

PYGOTT Pat

Peacefully at her home in Soham on Sunday 1st February, 2015 aged 70 years. Precious wife of Alan, dearest mum of Tracey and David and dear nana to Aaron, Kieran and Jasmin.

Funeral service at West Suffolk Crematorium on Friday 20th February at 9.45am.

Family flowers only, but donations if desired for Arthur Rank Hospice Charity may be left at the service or sent to

C. E. Fuller & Co,
23 Hall Street,
Soham, Cambs,
CB7 5BN.
Tel: 01353 720439.

SCULTHORPE Stella Margaret

Of Mepal

Passed away peacefully at home on Monday 2nd February 2015.

Loving wife of Bob, devoted mother of James and Jon, proud mother-in-law of Amanda and Natalie and special nanny to Megan and Alice.

Funeral Service will be held at St. Mary's Church, Mepal on Friday 20th February 2015 at 2.30pm followed by interment in the Churchyard.

Family flowers only but donations, if desired, for Tiggywinkles Wildlife Hospital or Papworth Hospital Pulmonary Care, may be left at the service or sent to

Ely Funeral Service,
4 Tower Road,
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CB7 4HW.
Tel: 01353 666566

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Deaths

WISBEY Joyce Margaret (Joy)

Of Ely

Peacefully in her sleep with David by her side at Lily House on Monday 2nd February 2015 aged 84 years. Reunited with her husband Norman, mother of Kevin, Neil and David. Sadly missed by family and friends.

Funeral Service at Cambridge City Crematorium, East Chapel on Wednesday 18th February 2015 at 3.15pm.

Flowers or donations, if desired, for Dementia UK may be left at the service or sent to

Ely Funeral Service,
4 Tower Road,
Ely, Cambs
CB7 4HW
Telephone
01353 666566

Family Announcements

Acknowledgements

SIBSON Julian (John)

Rosemary, James and Helen would like to express their sincere thanks to family and friends for cards and kind messages received after their sad loss.

We are grateful to Rev. Rakes and everyone who attended the funeral service.

We would also like to express our appreciation for the numerous offers of help and support before and after his death.

We especially wish to thank Doctors at St Mary's Surgery, A & E, EAU at Addenbrookes, The Ambulance Service, District Nurses and MIDAS Carers for all their care and support during his illness.

Donations for the Stroke Association in his memory amounted to £826.00.
Final thanks to Philip (PR Bowers Funeral Directors), Methwold for all the arrangements.

Please accept this as the only acknowledgement.

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ARTEFACTS

Historic key sells for £240

AN eighteenth century key believed to fit the lock of a chapel in the Ely area sold for £240 at auction.

The key was discovered in a loft in Littleport last year and was taken to Roy Adams, who owns Cliabhrach Treasure antique shop in Granby Street, Littleport.

The key, which had a £200 reserve price, was sold at auction last week to Robin Starte, a local history enthusiast from Great Shelford, whose £240 bid was the highest.

Mr Starte said he was "thrilled" with the purchase but admitted he knew very little about the key's history.

He said anyone with any information about the key, which was found inside a 1939 tea transportation box with a letter dated 1790, or who wants to help him research it, can call him on (01223) 842229.

RSPCA

Chinchilla abandoned in garden

AN abandoned chinchilla is looking for a new home.

The chinchilla, named Isobel by the RSPCA, is now being cared for at the charity's Block Fen Animal Centre, near Mepal, after she was found dumped in a cat carrier in a garden in Cambridge.

She is thought to be between six months and a year old, and was severely underweight with matted fur.

RSPCA inspector Richard Lythgoe said: "Poor Isobel was quite a chilly chinchilla when she was found dumped in this back garden.

"She is a domesticated pet, and there is no way she would have survived out there on her own. She was clearly in a state of neglect, and was underweight. We think she was probably a pet, and the owner had just got fed up of caring for her."

If you could offer her a home, call 0300 123 0726.

CAMPAIGN

IN LOVE: Sue says she has been obsessed with Gary Barlow for around 25 years

Love is... a tweet from Gary Barlow

Child-minder Sue 'sick with excitement'

JORDAN **DAY**
@JordanDayCN

A CHILDMINDER is feeling optimistic her celebrity crush, Gary Barlow, might attend her 50th birthday party – after receiving a private message from the star on Twitter.

Sue Smith, who runs Sweet Peas Childcare in Ely, has launched a social media campaign to get the 43-year-old singer-songwriter and TV personality to attend her party at Ely City Golf Club in July.

Although Gary hasn't confirmed whether he can make the party he has sent Sue a message on Twitter saying: "Sue, you're a one off! Love it! See u soon xxx".

As previously reported, Sue, who has been a die-hard fan of Gary for almost 25 years, has made it her mission is to get the star, who was awarded an OBE in 2012 for his services to music and charity, to attend her party.

Sue, who has been a self-employed childminder for 14 years and is the Cambridgeshire local facilitator for the Professional Association for Childcare and Early Years (PACEY), said: "I couldn't believe it when I received the private message.

"Okay he hasn't confirmed anything but the fact he's said he'll see me soon leaves me feeling optimistic.

"The thought of meeting him, even if it isn't on the night of my party, makes me feel sick with this nervous excitement. My stomach literally churns."

Since Ely News ran Sue's story last month, she says she has received more than 42,000 visits to her Twitter page.

Her Twitter campaign, #getgarytosues50th, has also trended in numerous places around the world, including Minneapolis and Buffalo, America.

Sue, who is renowned for her charity work in the Ely area, said: "It's been absolutely mental and I'd like to thank everyone for their support.

"I would do anything to meet Gary and if he came to my 50th birthday party it would be like a dream come true!

"I have followed this man for 23 years and some may think I am a little crackers to have Gary Barlow shoes, take photographs of him from the TV, attend the Royal Albert Hall alone to see him perform or have Gary Barlow cake toppers, but I am quite sane so please do not worry about me!

"All of my family and friends, including my husband, know how much of an obsession I have for this guy."

Last month, Gary announced he was to sing at three weddings – now increased to five due to the difficulty in making his choice – inviting brides, grooms, family and friends to 'stalk' him on Twitter and he would make his choices.

Sue said: "I needed no more of an invitation to 'stalk' him than this, although I am not getting married!"

To join the campaign, you can follow @suesmith1465 on Twitter.

ARTEFACTS

11th century pin loaned to Ely for exhibition

A VESTMENT pin which is nearly 1,000 years old is being temporarily reinstated at Ely Cathedral for the month of February.

The 11th century chasuble pin would have been used to hold the vestments worn by the clergy. It was found with the remains of Archbishop Wulfstan who was buried in Ely in 1023.

It was discovered when the Archbishop's remains had to be moved from under the Octagon because of restoration works. The pin was gifted to the Society of Antiquaries by The Revd James Bentham in 1777.

The society is loaning the pin to the cathedral this month so that it can be displayed as part of the Royal School of Needlework's 'For Worship and Glory' exhibition, which is running until February 28.

As well as the impressive needlework displays, other artefacts on display include a Mediaeval Cope (circa 1470), an 18th century gold vestment set and the recently restored white altar frontal dating from 1897.

Entry is £8, which also includes access to the cathedral.

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CRIME

Police urge residents to be vigilant

POLICE are warning residents in the Ely area to be vigilant following two distraction burglaries in Cambridge.

The first happened when a youth called at the home of an 87-year-old woman. He claimed to be looking for a lost kitten and asked if he could search her back garden. She allowed him and followed him around the back.

When she went back into the house a short while later she discovered two men in her bedroom who had tipped out her drawers. They ran past her and out of the house. Nothing was stolen.

The second happened when two men called at the home of a 49-year-old vulnerable man. The men claimed they were from the council and had come to decorate. However, they asked him to put any valuable belongings on his sofa and when they left he realised some gold coins he put there had gone.

Police are urging residents not to open their door to strangers and for people to remain vigilant to activity in their neighbourhood, particularly in areas with vulnerable or elderly residents.

GUIDE DOGS

LITTLE CUTIE: 10-week-old Minnie pictured at home in Mepal with Michelle

Michelle takes on fourth pup

JORDAN **DAY**
@JordanDayCN

MEET Minnie – a trainee guide dog who (fingers and paws crossed!) will one day be helping someone who is blind to be more independent.

10-week-old Minnie, a Labrador/Golden Retriever cross, is living with Michelle and Roger Taylor, from Mepal, who are trained 'puppy walkers' for the Guide Dogs charity.

Over the next 12 months, it is Michelle's job to teach Minnie, who she says is more "Minnie the Minx than Minnie Mouse", all the basic commands and experiences, such as socialising with people and other dogs, and learning how to cope in crowded places.

Michelle, of River Close, said: "Minnie is our fourth trainee guide dog puppy now. She's a lovely girl. She's bright and already extremely eager to learn so I think she's going to be quite easy to train.

EAGER TO LEARN: Minnie

"She's certainly more Minnie the Minx than Minnie Mouse though as she's quite feisty.

"It's often the feisty ones that make the best guide dogs so we've got high hopes for her."

As is the case with all guide dog puppies, Minnie's training will continue until, if and when, she makes the grade as a fully trained guide dog, helping someone who is blind or partially-sighted.

If for whatever reason she does not make the grade, she will be re-homed either as a specialist hearing dog, dog for the disabled, 'buddy dog' or as a family pet.

Michelle said: "Being a puppy walker for the charity is extremely rewarding.

"Obviously you do get attached but when they go it's amazing to think that you've helped to make such a difference to someone's life."

For more information about supporting the Guide Dogs charity, call 0845 371 7771 or visit www.guidedogs.org.uk.

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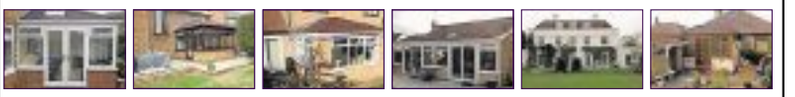

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It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Tim Law feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service the Cambridge, Ely, Saffron Walden, Haverhill, Royston & Newmarket areas and Tim is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. *'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'*

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Disability rights discussed

CRIME and disability rights were among the topics of conversation in Ely.

The Cambridgeshire Alliance for Independent Living held a 'Crime, Prevention and Safety' event at The Maltings on Thursday and invited Sir Graham Bright, Cambridgeshire's police and crime commissioner, to attend.

Ely's Mayor, Lis Every, and the Mayor of Cambridge, Gerri Bird, a long-term campaigner for disability rights, were also in attendance at the event, which ran throughout the day, and was open to all but was particularly aimed at those with a disability, their carers and families, and the people who work with them such as service providers, adult social care officers and the many charitable organisations that support people to live as independently as possible.

DISABILITY RIGHTS: Cambridge Mayor Gerri Bird, centre, and from left Mayor's Consort Alan Pooley, Cambs Alliance Chief Officer Alena Taylor, Chairman John Parker and Sir Graham Bright.

EDUCATION

Heads hit out at PM's threat

JORDAN **DAY**
@JordanDayCN

HEAD teachers in Ely have hit out at the Prime Minister's threats to sack principals of "coasting" schools.

David Cameron has announced an "all-out war on mediocrity" which includes new powers designed to improve the performance of thousands of under-performing schools in the country.

In a speech outlining the Conservative party's manifesto commitment to give all children a good start in life, he said any school judged by Ofsted to require improvement will be put under new leadership unless it can show that plans are in place to implement rapid change.

Mr Cameron said the country's best head teachers, backed by high-performing neighbouring schools or expert sponsors, will take over the running of the "coasting" and other under-performing schools. However, Sue Freestone, head of King's Ely, said this would make it even harder to recruit good head teachers.

HEADS: Sue Freestone, left, and Catherine Jenkinson-Dix

She said: "This is just another example of a politician with the scantest of understandings of the demands and intricacies of a complex and volatile profession, seeking to gain mileage by appearing to be tough on anything that falls short of perfection.

"The pressures on head teachers are enormous to the point where few ambitious young teachers I know are willing to contemplate headship."

Catherine Jenkinson-Dix, principal of Ely College, said Mr Cameron's perceived 'super head model' is "unsustainable".

She said: "I think all heads would fully agree that their schools should offer every child the best quality education. I also agree that this depends on strong leadership in each school, and indeed the building blocks to develop strong leaders and train new ones are already in place through teaching alliances and school-to-school support networks.

"It is important though, that we resist the temptation to go back to the 'super head model', which was great for quick fixes but ultimately proved unsustainable."

Have your say at ely-news.co.uk

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DAREDEVIL: Sue Thompson pictured at her home in Ely

FUNDRAISING

Sue's big charity leap

JORDAN **DAY**
@JordanDayCN

A RETIRED magistrate will be challenging her fear of heights when she leaps 12,000ft out of an aeroplane.

Sue Thompson might be 70 but that isn't stopping her taking on her first ever skydive today.

The mum-of-three, who was a Cambridgeshire magistrate for 20 years, is raising money for a charity called the Kitchen Table Charities Trust.

The trust was founded by John Humphrys to provide support to small, community-based charities working in third world countries.

The trust supports charities which work with children, many of whom are orphans, with people who have polio and charities which make small loans to widows to help them set up little businesses, to name just a few.

Sue, who lives with her husband, Mike, in Beald Way, Ely, said: "When I turned 70 I became too old to continue sitting as a magistrate so I decided I must find myself a new challenge to prove that one isn't passed it at this age!

"I knew I wouldn't be able to run a marathon or climb a mountain but I thought, hang on, I could fall out of a plane.

"I'm absolutely terrified of heights so I'm nervous but there's no going back now. The Kitchen Table Charities Trust are relying on me."

Sue, who has lived in Ely almost all her life, is doing her skydive near Chatteris.

She has already raised over £1,500 for the charity but is hoping to raise over £2,000.

She said: "It's a fantastic charity. Every penny it gets goes directly to supporting these smaller charities – nothing is spent on admin costs or flashy cars, which I feel is really important.

"I'd like to thank everyone who has already sponsored me and if there is anyone out there who could make a donation, no matter how small, then it would be so appreciated."

To sponsor Sue, visit www.justgiving.com/Sue-Thompson44.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Know a local lifesaver?

DO you know someone in the Ely area who has helped to save a life?

St John Ambulance is calling for nominations for the St John Ambulance Everyday Heroes Awards, supported by Physio Control. The awards are an annual event celebrating people across the UK who have saved a life.

For more information about the awards, visit www.sja.org.uk/everydayheroes. The deadline for entries is Saturday, February 28.

Author and historian to host society's talk

LOCAL historian and teacher, Dr Francis Young, is hosting the next Ely and District Archaeological Society talk.

The talk, entitled 'The Bishop's Palace at Ely in the Sixteenth Century', is at Ely Methodist Church on Monday, February 16 at 8pm. Dr Young is Head of Sixth Form Academic at King's Ely.

Non-members are welcome.

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Your Community

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Visit ely-news.co.uk or email Your Community news to jordan.day@cambridge-news.co.uk

Ely

■ 'Catholics in Ely and the Fens' is the subject of the next Ely Society meeting. Dr Francis Young is hosting the talk at Ely Museum on Wednesday, February 11 at 7.30pm.

■ Rowley's next auction of everything from antiques to fine art is on Saturday, February 14. The sale starts at 10am and viewing takes place from 9am-7pm on the Friday. Call (01353) 653020.

■ Local artists Lyz Gardner and Katrina Wilkie are exhibiting their paintings at Ely's Old Fire Engine House this month. The gallery is open from 10.30am-10.30pm Monday to Friday and from 10.30am-5.30pm on Saturdays and Sundays. Call (01353) 662582.

■ 'Art and Dame Nature' is the title of the next Ely Decorative and Fine Arts Society lecture. The talk, hosted by lecturer Twigs Way, is being held at Ely's Old Palace on Thursday, February 19 at 7.30pm.

■ Simon Crowhurst is hosting Ely Astronomy Club's talk on Friday, February 13. The talk, entitled 'The wonky wheel of eccentricity, and how it drives the Ice Ages', is at Ely Museum's Vernon Cross Room at 7.30pm.

■ 'The Norfolk Photographs of Hallam Ashley' is the title of this week's Fenland History on Friday talk. The talk, entitled Peter Hoare, is being held at Ely Methodist Church on Friday, February 13 at 10.30am. Call (01353) 648106.

■ A nearly new sale is being held at Ely's Lantern Primary School on Saturday, February 21. The Friends of Goslings Pre-school are organising the event to raise funds for the pre-school. The sale is from 10am-12pm and stalls are £6. Call Heather on 07927 630813.

Haddenham

■ 'Better is wisdom than weapons of war' is the title of the next Haddenham Local History Group. Sue Slack is hosting the event at the Arkenstall Centre on Tuesday, February 24 at 7.30pm.

Little Downham

■ A jumble sale and pancake morning are being held at Little Downham Community Rooms on Saturday, February 14 from 10am-1pm. All funds will go to the Children's Society and St Leonard's Church. Call (01353) 698280.

Little Thetford

■ The East Cambs Rambling group will be enjoying a seven-mile circular walk around Ely and Little Thetford on Saturday, February 14.

People should meet at Ely train station in time to catch the 9.35am train, and should take rations with them. Call Joye on 07761 380314.

■ Little Thetford Scottish Country Dancing Club meets at Ely's Paradise Centre on the first and third Friday of the month from 8-10pm.

Call (01353) 658275.

Littleport

■ A Texas Hold Em Poker tournament is being held at Littleport Leisure Centre on Friday, February 13 at 7.30pm. On Saturday, February 14 from 8pm onwards there is also live entertainment with Johnny Dee, and on Wednesday, February 18 there is a prize bingo night, with eyes down at 7pm.

Call (01353) 860600.

CHIT CHAT: MP Steve Barclay has hailed the work carried out at the community cafe in Sutton

MP enjoys a cuppa at Nellie's Cafe

MP Steve Barclay enjoyed a cup of coffee and a chat with regulars at Nellie's Community Cafe in Sutton.

Mr Barclay, MP for North East Cambridgeshire, went along to see the good work carried out at the cafe, which is run by volunteers twice a month at Scott Court.

There are 10 volunteers who operate the cafe serving up to 50 people at each of the two sessions, which are held on the second Wednesday and last Friday of the month from 10am to 2pm. All profits are given to charity and so far there has been more than £8,000 raised for good causes.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

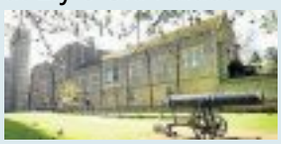
Charity Valentine's ball

A VALENTINE'S ball will be raising funds for Witchford Rackham Pre-school.

The event is being held at Witchford Village Hall from 7.30pm until late on February 14 and tickets are £25, which includes a three-course meal and dancing to local band, Avalon. All funds will go directly to the pre-school.

For tickets or more information, call 07711 477676 or 07933 126585.

Talking all about art at Ely's Old Palace



'ART and Dame Nature' is the title of the next Ely Decorative and Fine Arts Society talk.

Twigs Way is hosting the lecture at Ely's Old Palace on Thursday, February 19 at 7.30pm.

Go wild at Wicken Fen

YOUNGSTERS can let off some half term steam at Wicken Fen Nature Reserve.

A whole host of children's half term activities are being held, including 'wild art' sessions on Tuesday, February 17 at 10.30am and 2pm.

On Thursday, February 19, at the same times, there are also 'go wild' activities where kids can enjoy den building and geocaching. For information, call (01353) 720274.

ANIMAL RESCUE

Trapped swan rescued from pumping station

JORDAN **DAY**
@JordanDayCN

A SWAN was at the centre of a dramatic RSPCA rescue after it is believed to have crash landed at a pumping station.

The mute swan was discovered trapped between the weed screen and the bank at the pumping station in Main Street, Prickwillow.

The Middle Fen and Mere Internal Drainage Board (IDB) called the RSPCA and, despite the sub-zero temperatures, local inspector Richard Lythgoe donned his waterproofs and climbed into the water to get the stressed bird to safety.

Ian Kenyon, from Soham, who works for the IDB, spotted the swan.

He said: "The swan was stuck on the water between the automatic weed screen and the bank – none of us know how it got in there but we suspect it crash landed.

"I knew there was no way it'd get out again as it wouldn't have been able to gather enough speed to take off.

"We switched the weed screen off so that it didn't stress the bird out more than what it already was, and called the RSPCA.

"Richard, the inspector, was marvellous. There's no way I would've gone in that freezing cold water that's for sure."

Ian added: "I've never seen one trapped like that before – it's great that it was able to be rescued."

Mr Lythgoe, who lives near Ely and is a member of the RSPCA's swift water rescue team, said: "The water was freezing, I couldn't feel my hands, but obviously it needed to be done.

"There's no way the swan would've got out of there alone. The drop was at least six metres and was vertical meaning it wouldn't have been able to take off."

The swan, which was uninjured, was taken to the RSPCA East Winch Wildlife Centre in Norfolk, and will be released back into the wild soon.

HELPING HAND: RSPCA inspector Richard Lythgoe rescuing the trapped swan

RESCUED: The swan is lifted out of the water, and safely on to the bank, left

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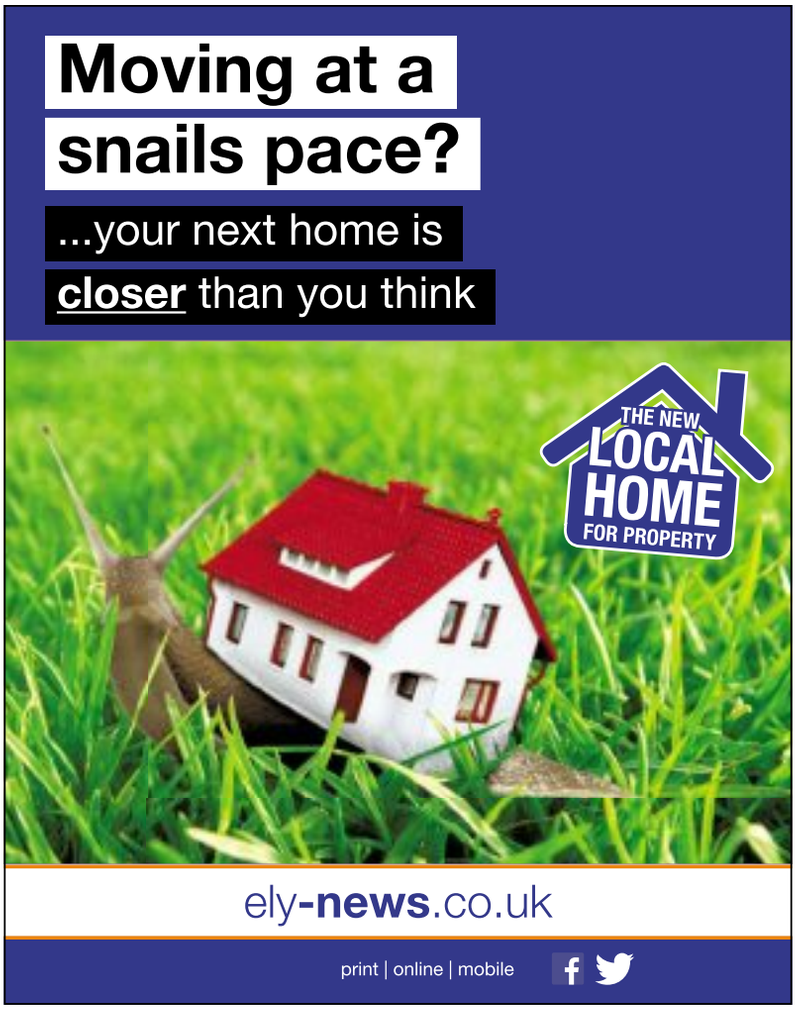

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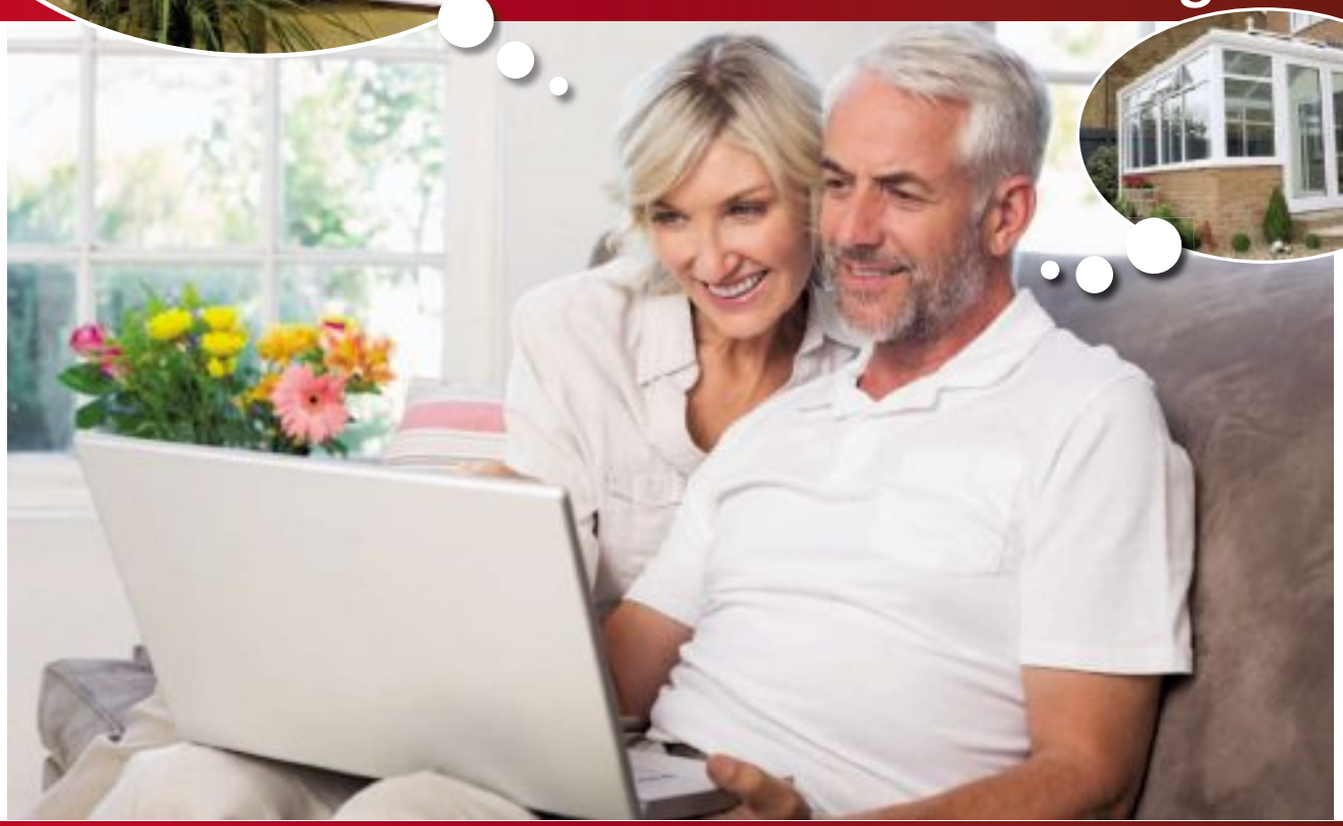

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Passionate about decorating, Greg insists on doing a first-class job every time. He is delighted to provide free advice before starting work and can let you have a free estimate before beginning.

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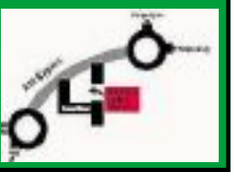

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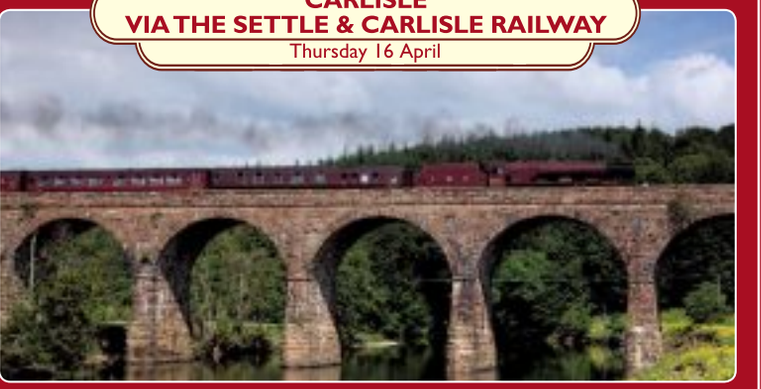

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Cathedral research

LEADERS at Ely Cathedral have commissioned a specialist research group to assess the 'value and impact' of the 'Ship of the Fens'.

Burns Owen Partnership (BOP) Consulting have been appointed to carry out the 'Economic and Social Impact Study' for the cathedral.

Dean of Ely, the Very Reverend Mark Bonney, said: "The background to this is that in today's competitive funding climate, we are increasingly expected to provide evidence of the cathedral's value and impact within the local community and within our region.

"This is especially the case when approaching some of the big statutory funders or major charitable trusts.

"We need to be able to demonstrate the difference the cathedral makes by its presence across a range of measures, such as the tourist economy, impact on employment, contribution to volunteering and acquiring new skills, educational provision, opportunities to experience the arts, contribution to the wellbeing of the community, and impact on local business and the economic health of the region.

"With this in mind, we have commissioned BOP Consulting to carry out an Economic and Social Impact Study for the cathedral.

"Over the last few months Paul Owens (managing director) and Lucy Minyo (researcher) have been consulting with a range of groups and individuals by personal interview and through focus groups, and also by questionnaires.

"Their report will be presented to us in April, and we hope to share the findings with people in the course of the year."

Residents, businesses and organisations can share their views about the cathedral by completing a survey at www.surveymonkey.com/s/WM22KQZ.

ENTREPRENEUR: James Clark founded the Ely Gin Company in 2012

Ely Gin invited aboard Britannia

THERE'S yet more great news for James Clark, founder of the Ely Gin Company.

His 'Ely Dark Chocolate Gin' has been selected for the Great British Gin Menu on board Britannia, the biggest superliner ever built for the British market, which is being officially launched in March.

The company has been chosen as P&O Cruises say it is "one of the finest artisan gins in the UK".

Mr Clark, from Ely, founded the business in 2012 and started selling the gin on Ely's Saturday market.

Three years on and following rapid growth, the company now trades nationwide and is looking at opportunities overseas.

The gin is one of just 20 being offered on board Britannia and will be used for signature cocktails, gin tasting session, or simply to enjoy with tonic, ice and a slice.

Visit www.elygin.co.uk for more information.

Farmers receive £44m

THE Rural Payments Agency (RPA) has paid 1,804 farmers from Cambridgeshire £44,212,186 so far in the 2014 Single Payment Scheme (SPS) window.

The news comes as the agency reported it exceeded its 2014 target for the end of March more than two months ahead of schedule.

Nationally, by January 28, the RPA had paid a total of £1.46 billion to nearly 100,000 farmers in England. This equates to 98.4 per cent of farmer eligible to claim.

RPA planning and performance director John Carter said: "We are delighted with this performance but we will not be resting on our laurels. "Our focus now is to ensure farmers who have not yet received their money are paid as soon as possible, while preparing for the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS), which replaces SPS for 2015." Visit www.gov.uk/ruralpayments or call 03000 200 301 for more details.

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WILBURTON £339,950

- Modern detached bungalow
- Small cul-de-sac location
- 3 bedrooms
- Lounge & conservatory
- Fitted kitchen b'fast room
- En-suite and bathroom
- Garage and garden
- EPC Rating D

STUNTNEY £500,000

- Individual detached house
- Highly desirable hamlet
- 3 reception rooms
- Lounge/dining room
- Large fitted kitchen and utility
- 4 double bedrooms
- Double garage and garden
- EPC Rating D

HADDENHAM £112,500

- Ideal investment/first purchase
- First floor corner flat
- Central location
- Open plan living/kitchen
- Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Allocated parking
- EPC Rating C

WITCHFORD £390,000

- Traditionally built detached home
- Popular village location
- 3 reception rooms
- Fitted kitchen
- 4 bedrooms
- En-suite and family bathroom
- Double garage/workshop
- EPC Rating E

LT DOWNHAM £389,950

- Individual detached house
- Non estate location
- 4 bedrooms
- En-suite and family bathroom
- Fitted kitchen and utility
- 3 reception rooms
- Double garage and parking
- EPC Rating D

ELY £430,000

- Modern detached house
- Lantern school catchment
- 3 reception rooms
- Well fitted kitchen and utility
- 5 bedrooms
- 3 en-suite
- Double garage#
- EPC Rating D

LITTLE THETFORD £300,000

- Double fronted period home
- In need of updating
- Planning Permission for
- extending
- Central village location
- Good size plot
- No onward chain
- EPC Rating G

WITCHFORD £279,950

- Detached home
- Non estate location
- 3 bedrooms
- En-suite to master
- Lounge and dining room
- Fitted kitchen and utility
- Garden and garage
- EPC Rating C

SOHAM £315,000

- Modern townhouse
- Cul-de-sac location
- Spacious and well presented
- 2 groundfloor bedrooms
- Lounge and kitchen on 1st floor
- Master suite and 2 further
- bedrooms on 3rd floor
- EPC rating C

SUTTON £330,000

- Modern detached house
- Quiet cul-de-sac location
- 4 bedrooms
- En-suite to master
- Fitted kitchen
- Lounge and dining room
- Situated on a large plot
- EPC Rating C

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Feature homes

Ely is an attractive alternative to expensive Cambridge, according to Mark Peck, a partner at Cheffins estate agents in Ely

Agent's blog

Ely is becoming an increasingly attractive option for many house hunters. With house price growth in Cambridge far outstripping some areas of London, it is no surprise to find that buyers are having to cast their net further afield in search of value for money – to surrounding areas such as Ely.

Ely still represents a good return on investment when compared with Cambridge. It is a viable option for those needing to commute to London, with regular services in and out of the capital, and the attraction for those buyers with young families is evident.

With the election looming in May, the high end of the market has cooled, but stamp duty changes and record low interest rates have kept mid-range sales healthy. Many forecasters believe that interest rates may not now rise until late in 2016, something that many buyers reliant on mortgage facilities will be pleased to hear. On top of that, Chancellor George Osborne's stamp duty reforms took everyone by surprise and did much to fuel people's aspiration for moving up the housing ladder.

In recent months house sales have been powered by pent-up demand, and people trapped in the wrong house have demonstrated that they finally have the confidence to take the plunge, supported by a recovery in the economy and stamp duty changes.

Despite mortgage lenders' criteria having toughened up sharply in the last few years, house price growth in Ely is solid and stable. There is a shortage of stock generally across the region and buyers have to be quick off the mark to get what they want.

Cover property – Chatteris: £155,000

THIS three bedroom semi-detached home in Drake Avenue, Chatteris, is now on the market for £155,000.
Accommodation includes a ground floor cloakroom and a conservatory, while upstairs is a master bedroom with en suite bathroom as well as two more bedrooms.
Outside there is a garage and driveway parking to the front of the property, as well as a garden to the rear.
For more details contact the Harrison Murray Group on (01354) 692900.

Feature homes

Broad Street: £350,000

THIS three bedroom 18th century home in Broad Street, Ely, is now on the market for £350,000. The property has many character features and a well-regarded central city location, and internal accommodation including a dining room and lounge with beams and cast iron fireplaces, a kitchen and a utility room. On the first floor are all three bedrooms, including one with a feature fireplace, and a family bathroom.Outside the property has an enclosed rear garden backing onto Cherry Hill Park, with views of Ely Cathedral. It has lawn, plants and shrubs and an outside storage area.
Contact Cheffins on (01353) 654900.

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01353 654900 cheffins.co.uk UNRIVALLED COVERAGE AROUND ELY

Ely £350,000

A great opportunity to purchase this 18th Century home having many character features, situated in a highly regarded City Centre location backing onto Cherry Hill Park and within easy walking distance of the City amenities, popular riverside, mainline railway station and The King's School. The property is offered for sale with no upward chain and viewing is highly recommended. EPR D.

Sutton £299,995

A greatly improved period detached house is situated close to the centre of this highly regarded village, it has a southerly facing generous plot. Accommodation briefly comprises kitchen, 3 reception rooms, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, studio / workshop, garage, parking and gardens. EPR F.

Little Ouse £379,950

Equestrian property in a rural location comprising detached house with approx 3 acres of paddocks, 17 stables, feed room, pony box & horse walker. Hall, cloakroom, kitchen/breakfast room, boiler room, dining room, superb L-shaped living room, 5 bedrooms (1 ensuite), shower room, bathroom, parking, gardens. Superb views across surrounding farmland & opposite the River Little Ouse. Rarely available. EPR F

Soham £335,000

A superbly presented detached family home on a select development with just 4 other properties. Hall, cloakroom, kitchen/breakfast room, dining room, lounge, study, 4 bedrooms (2 ensuite), bathroom, gardens, double garage & parking. The property benefits from gas central heating, double glazing & an NHBC Certificate. EPR C.

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Soham £217,995

Well presented townhouse on this modern residential development within walking distance of the local primary school with versatile accommodation briefly comprising entrance hallway, cloakroom, kitchen, dining room, lounge, 4 double bedrooms (1 ensuite), bathroom, shower room, garden & garage. The property benefits from gas central heating and double glazing. EPR C.

Ely £150,000

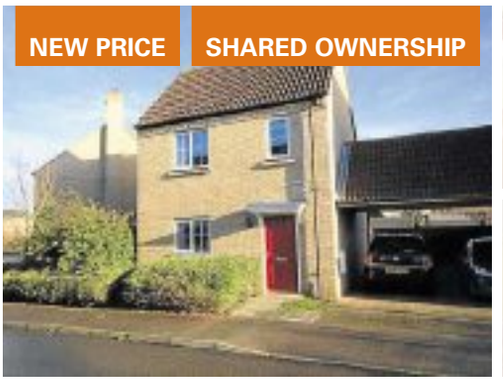
A 3 bedroom end of terrace property within walking distance of Ely City Centre and within close proximity to Spring Meadow Primary School. Accommodation comprises entrance hallway, lounge, kitchen, bathroom, 3 bedrooms and front and rear gardens. The property benefits from gas central heating and double glazing. EPR TBC.

Downham Market Guide Price £399,950

An established detached family home set on a plot of approximately 12.4 acres of grade 1 arable land (currently set to wheat and due to be harvested July/August 2014). Hall, lounge, separate dining room, sitting room/bedroom 4, office/family room, rear lobby, utility, kitchen/breakfast room, 3 bedrooms, box room, bathroom & separate cloakroom. The property is offered for sale with no upward chain. EPR D.

Ely £169,995

A ground floor 2 bedroom apartment forming part of the former Holy Trinity Parish Hall situated in a central City location. Well placed for the many local amenities, the accommodation briefly comprises open plan lounge/kitchen, 2 bedrooms and bathroom, together with courtyard rear garden. EPR B.



Ely £120,000

A well presented link detached property situated in a highly regarded location and offered for sale on a 50% shared ownership basis. Accommodation comprises entrance hallway, cloakroom, kitchen, spacious lounge/dining room, 3 bedrooms and bathroom, together with car port and gardens. The property is sold with no upward chain. EPR TBC.

Soham £219,950

A established detached bungalow situated in a mature non-estate location, accommodation briefly comprises entrance hallway, lounge, dining room, kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bathroom, front and rear gardens with potential off road parking. The property also benefits from gas central heating. EPR TBC.

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Littleport £299,950

Superbly presented detached home on a corner plot with an attractive outlook. Entrance hall, cloakroom, kitchen/breakfast room, utility, dining room, study, lounge, 4 double bedrooms (1 ensuite), bathroom, fully enclosed garden, double garage & off road parking. Also benefits from gas central heating, double glazing & NHBC. EPR E.

Littleport £339,950

Individual detached family home offering spacious accommodation & attractive features along a country lane on the edge of the village with views to front & rear aspects. Hall, cloakroom, study, lounge, superb 22'5' x 14'5' kitchen/dining/family room, utility, 4 double bedrooms (1 ensuite), bathroom, extensive drive, private gardens with timber workshop & office/studio. EPR B.

Haddenham £469,000

Situated close to the centre of this highly regarded village, this established detached family home offers stylish versatile living accommodation comprising entrance hallway, utility room/study, lounge, dining room, kitchen, lobby, 4 bedrooms (master with ensuite) family bathroom, car port and gardens. EPR E.

Chippenham £479,950

Georgian family home with an abundance of character. Hall, kitchen/breakfast room, sitting room, rear scullery/ dining room, 3 bedrooms (1 ensuite), bathroom, separate annexe/studio with lounge/bedroom & ensuite, single garage, store & gardens. Viewing of the property is highly recommended to fully appreciate the charm, character and the superb additional studio/annexe.

Mepal Offers In Excess Of £300,000

A spacious detached, non estate bungalow set at the end of a no through lane adjacent to the centre of the village with views of open fields to the front, side and rear. Accommodation comprises inner hallway, lounge, kitchen/breakfast room, 3 bedrooms, family bathroom, utility room and separate shower room. EPR E.

Aldreth £375,000

A superbly presented detached family home in a secluded select development of similar properties positioned on a generous plot. Accommodation comprises spacious entrance hallway, kitchen/dining room, utility room, lounge, cloakroom, study, 4 bedrooms (1 ensuite), bathroom, double garage, driveway & rear garden. EPR D.

Ely £99,950

A first floor 1 bedroom apartment situated in a central City location close to amenities. Accommodation comprises entrance hallway, open plan accommodation, 1 bedroom and bathroom. The property benefits from no upward chain.

Littleport £184,000

Well presented, spacious, modern end of terrace property on the highly regarded Highfield development overlooking a green. Entrance hall, cloakroom, kitchen/ dining room, lounge, 3 bedrooms (one with ensuite), bathroom, gardens & allocated parking. The property benefits from gas central heating, double glazing & no upward chain. EPR C.

Sutton £229,950

A modern semi detached house situated a short distance from the village centre. Hall, kitchen/lounge, ground floor bedroom/dining room, ground floor wet room/cloakroom, 2 first floor bedrooms and bathroom. The property also benefits from ground floor under floor heating, off road parking & enclosed garden. EPR B.

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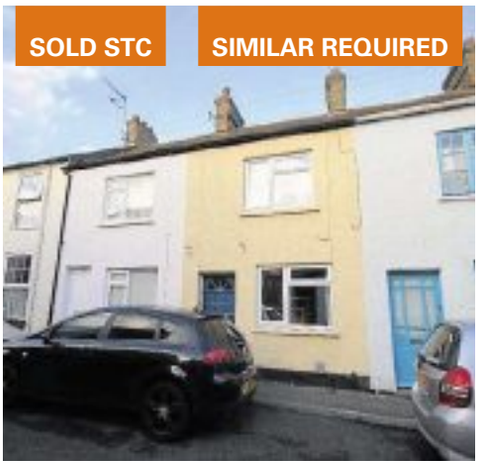

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Little Downham

Modern and well presented 2 bedroom property with gas heating, double glazing, garden & parking. EPC:B

Ely £650 pcm

Modern first floor 1 bedroom flat ideally located in the heart of the City centre. EPC:B

Mepal

Detached 3 bedroom bungalow with a good sized garden, garage and drive. EPC:D

Ely £725 pcm

Modern 2 bedroom terrace house close to amenities with gas heating, garden and parking space. EPC:C

Ely

3 bedroom property with gas heating, double glazing, enclosed garden, garage & off road parking. EPC:C

Ely

Modern 2 bedroom terraced house with gas heating, double glazing, enclosed garden and garage. EPC:D

Ely

Modern 3 bedroom semi detached family house with enclosed garden, driveway and gas heating. EPC:C

Ely £1,300 pcm

Well presented end of terrace 4 bedroom townhouse with gas heating, garden & off road parking. EPC:C

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Ely
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Guide Price £150,000 to £160,000

Downsizing but still want space? EPC D

Soham

Downsizing to a two bedroom bungalow to live life on one level and do less housework doesn't have to mean giving up on great family parties ... this is a true tardis property - until you see it ... you wont believe it ! REF: 9164

- Bungalow
- Two bedrooms
- Modern kitchen
- Modern shower room
- Extended living space
- Cash buyers only

Bringing Spain to Soham!

Guide Price
£240,000 to £250,000
Ely
A Lounge For Living In
EPC C

Tucked away in a quiet cul de sac overlooking the playing fields, this semi detached townhouse makes an ideal home for those looking for space for visitors to stay, or for teenagers to have their own space. Ely College and The Lanterns Primary School are just around the corner and commuting is made easy with access to the A10 a short drive away. What are you waiting for? Call to view! REF: 9322

Perfect first time buy!

Guide Price
£260,000 to £270,000
Soham
This home has grown! Your family can too!
EPC E

If you're looking for a true family home then this is for you! The open kitchen/ dining room means you can keep an eye on the children whilst cooking, as well as making a great social space for entertaining. The four bedrooms allow plenty of space for family or for visitors. REF: 9373

Check this out!

Guide Price £400,000 To £425,000

The Kitchen Is the Heart Of This Home EPC D

Witchford

There is far more than meets the eye within this three bedroom detached family home set on a plot of approximately one acre (STS). Our seller has lived at the property for more years than he cares to remember and the property has certainly evolved. REF - 8814

- Extensive plot of approx 1 acre (STS)
- Modern open plan kitchen/diner
- Wet room and family bathroom
- Gas heating to radiators
- Garage and additional parking
- Planning permission for extension

Cul De Sac Position

Guide Price £290,000 - £300,000
More wanted! EPC C
Ely
A beautifully presented bungalow tucked away in a cul de sac just off Kings Avenue in the lovely city of Ely.
Call now for a free valuation!

Guide Price £245,000 - £255,000
Similar needed! EPC C
Ely
This three storey home is perfect for the older family, where the ground floor makes the perfect teenager's den. The three bathrooms mean there are no fights in the morning!
Book today!

Guide Price £170,000 to £180,000
Certainly popular! EPC C
Little Downham
A fantastic result here-we could help you too!

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Guide Price £265,000 - £275,000

Family In Mind

EPC C

Ely

Our sellers have enjoyed living in this link detached property since it was built fifteen years ago. They are now moving on to pastures new and so this house is looking for a new family who can call it home. REF: 9394

- Three bedrooms
- Link detached
- Garage and off street parking
- Conservatory
- Corner plot
- West Ely location

Plenty of space

Guide Price £400,000 to £425,000

Fantastic Space

EPC D

Pymoor

My sellers have raised their family in this fantastic property over the last 16 years, The annexe was a happy home for my sellers mother then a music studio in later years - what about you? REF - 8903

- Separate one bedroom annexe
- Fantastic space
- Double garage
- Off street parking
- Rural location
- Perfect for large family

An Annexe, An Office?, A Studio?

Guide Price £340,000 to £350,000

Enjoy the garden all year round!

EPC D

Soham

Designed by our seller, this attractive four bedroom detached property has masses of kerb appeal and plenty of off road parking, plus a double garage.There is an abundance of space and masses of potential and versatility, ideal for the growing family. REF: 8677

- Architect designed property
- Four double bedrooms
- En suite to master
- Three reception rooms
- Generous garden
- Double garage and ample parking

Call now to view this!

Guide Price £300,000 to £310,000

Great Location

EPC B

Little Downham

Looking for independence and self-sufficiency? Then look no further! With solar panels on the roof and a brilliant vegetable plot at the bottom of the garden, this could be your green dream! Whether you have family and friends close by or further afield, there is plenty of parking space on the driveway, with scope for more if desired. REF : 8971

- Established gardens
- Off street parking and garage
- Single garage
- Field views
- Popular location
- Chain free

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Residential Sales, Lettings & Management

Residential Sales

WITCHFORD £179,950

NEW

But to Let Opportunity
A modern 3 bedroom family home situated on a much sought after development overlooking Victoria Green. Sold with tenants until April, 2015.

Reception Hall, Cloakroom, Living Room, Open Plan Kitchen/Dining Room, 3 Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Garage, Off Road Parking.

No Upward Chain
EPC - 73(C)

ELY £320,000

NEW

A beautifully presented and recently extended 4 bedroom detached family home situated on an established and much sought after development just off Prickwillow Road.

Entrance Hall, Living Room, Recently Extended Kitchen/Dining Room, Cooking Area/Utility Room, Cloakroom, Conservatory, 4 Bedrooms (1 En-Suite), Family Bathroom, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Part Converted Garage for Storage, Front and Rear Gardens, Garage and Off Road Parking.

ELY £239,950

NEW

An opportunity to purchase a Victorian end of terrace cottage in need of improvement with the rare benefit of its own garage which lies in a superb position just a few yards from the marina (pictured) and railway station.

Dual Aspect Living Room, Kitchen, Rear Lobby, Garden Room, Bathroom, 2 Bedrooms, Double Glazing, Walled Rear Garden, Garage.

No Upward Chain
EPC - 15(G)

LITTLE DOWNHAM £230,000

NEW

An opportunity to purchase a 2 bedroom detached bungalow in need of improvement which lies on a delightful plot within one of the most coveted addresses in this sought after village location. Backing onto farmland with far reaching countryside views towards the Cathedral.

Entrance Hall, Triple Aspect Living Room, Kitchen, 2 Bedrooms, Bathroom, Brick and lean-to Garden Room, Oil Fired Central Heating, Garage, Front and Rear Gardens. Internal floor area 66m2

No Upward Chain.

WILBURTON £290,000

NEW

A versatile family home offering potentially 5 bedrooms, also with a triple double door detached garage and situated in a rural location halfway between Wilburton and Cottenham.

Reception Hall, Sitting Room, Conservatory, 3 Ground Floor Bedrooms, Ground Floor Family Bathroom, Kitchen, Dining Room/Study Area, Ground Floor Shower Room, Open Planned First Floor with Potential to create 2 Further Bedrooms, Integral Garage, Triple Detached Garage, Oil Fired Central Heating, Double Glazing, Ample Off Road Parking, Rear Garden Enjoying Far Reaching Countryside Views.

SUTTON £295,000

NEW

A particularly spacious, individual, detached bungalow tucked away at the end of a cul de sac on a large plot close to the heart of this well served village location

Reception Hall, Cloakroom, Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Dining Room, Spacious Sitting Room, Conservatory, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Double Garage, Ample Parking, Partially Double Glazed, Large Useful Outbuilding, Large Gardens Surrounding the Property.

No Upward Chain
EPC - 52(E)

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T 01353 668091 | E ely@pocock.co.uk
Also at Cambridge, Newmarket and London

Gregory Van Dicks
Magnus Woodroffe

LITTLE DOWNHAM

A particularly well-appointed, modern, detached residence which lies in a desirable position within this sought after village location.

SUTTON £210,000

A well-proportioned, 1950s built double fronted semi-detached house which lies on a good sized plot backing on to open countryside in this sought after well served village location. EPC - 62(D)

ELY £350,000

A rare opportunity to purchase a rather special, late 18th Century, 3 bedroom detached cottage which lies in a highly desirable and convenient position close to The Cathedral and railway station. No Upward Chain EPC - 59(D)

LITTLEPORT £289,950

An attractive individually designed double fronted 4 bedroom detached Chalet style property, which lies within a small select cul de sac location. EPC - 60(D)

ELY £239,950

A spacious, 3 double bedroom, end of terrace 3 storey townhouse which lies in an appealing position overlooking an amenity green on this much sought after development. EPC - 79(C)

MEPAL £229,950

A particularly well-proportioned, 3 bedroom, detached bungalow with conservatory and garage which lies in an appealing cul de sac position on this sought after village development. EPC 64(D)

LAKENHEATH £450,000

A rare opportunity to acquire 5 bedroom detached farmhouse with a large range of outbuildings including a new barn, 2 cart sheds, garage and ample secure parking set in approximately 0.75 of an acre. EPC - 35(F)

LITTLE THETFORD £430,000

An attractive and rare opportunity to acquire a character, four bedroom family home situated on a generous plot on the edge of this much sought after south Ely village. No Upward Chain EPC - 53(E)

LITTLE DOWNHAM £795 pcm*

A particularly well appointed, 3 bedroom semi detached bungalow with gardens and garage situated in a sought after and highly convenient position in this popular village location. EPC 43 - E

AVAILABLE END OF FEB - UNFURNISHED

ELY £1,050 pcm*

A four bedroom, detached house situated on a highly regarded residential development. EPC - 66(D)

AVAILABLE MID MARCH - UNFURNISHED

MEPAL £725 pcm*

A well proportioned double fronted modern detached bungalow, situated in a cul-de-sac within this highly regarded village location. EPC - 66(D)
Available Immediately - Unfurnished

ELY £750 pcm*

A modern three bedroom end of terrace house. The property benefits from gas central heating, an enclosed rear garden, carport & parking space. EPC - 71(C)
Available End of February - Unfurnished

SOHAM £525 pcm*

A superbly presented 1 bedroom house which lies in an appealing position within this well served location. EPC - 63(D)
Available Immediately - Unfurnished

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NEW

LITTLEPORT

An imposing and highly individual detached family residence providing spacious five bedroom accommodation with self-contained detached one bedroom annexe.

5 bedrooms, en suite bathroom, family bathroom, reception hall, cloakroom, sitting room, dining room, study, kitchen/breakfast room, utility, conservatory, double glazing, gas central heating, double glazing, large gardens and swimming pool. EPC rating: E

£550,000

CHATTERIS

A beautiful four bedroom detached period home with large garden and outbuilding for renovation (subject to the necessary consents).

4 bedrooms, master with en suite, family bathroom, store room, dining room, sitting room, family room, entrance hall, inner hall, kitchen/breakfast room, utility room, mezzanine workspace, shower room/WC, garden, off-road parking, outbuilding. EPC rating: D

£389,950

NEW

PRICKWILLOW

A detached five bedroom family home with spacious accommodation and large garden in a rural setting.

5 bedrooms, 2 en suite shower rooms, bathroom, entrance hall, kitchen, dining room, utility room, sitting room, office, oil fired central heating, front and rear gardens, garage and parking. EPC rating: C

£380,000

WITCHAM

An impressive five bedroom detached family home providing spacious accommodation set within generous established plot of about 0.18 acre.

5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, entrance porch, entrance hall, sitting room, dining room, study, garden room, cloakroom, kitchen and utility. The property is set back from the road within established gardens, parking for several vehicles and single garage. EPC rating: D

£369,950

Your Ely sales team...

Robert Webster

Nick Bush

Andy Bassett

Jade Woodruffe

Debs Spencer

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SOHAM — £469,500

An impressive detached three bedroom bungalow with adjoining two bedroom annexe set within an established plot of about 1/2 acre (STS).

3 bedrooms, en suite shower room, family bathroom, reception hall, sitting room, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, study/bedroom 4, utility room, oil central heating, 1/2 acre plot (STS), double garage and 2 bedroom annexe. EPC rating: E

ELY — £359,950

An attractive detached modern five bedroom home nicely positioned within this popular development with mature garden and double garage.

5 bedrooms, 2 en suite shower rooms, family bathroom, entrance hall, sitting room, dining room, study, cloakroom, kitchen/breakfast room, gas central heating, garden, driveway, double garage, no upward chain. EPC rating: D

NEW PRICE

ELY — £319,950

An impeccably presented, extended three bedroom detached house, with garage and workshop in a popular area.

3 bedrooms, family bathroom with shower cubicle, separate WC, entrance hall, cloakroom, lounge, dining room, kitchen, study, utility/lean-to, gas central heating, enclosed rear garden, summer house, front garden, garage and off-road parking. EPC rating: D

WILBURTON — £285,000

An impressive detached bungalow providing versatile three bedroom accommodation, situated in this pleasant cul-de-sac amongst other similar dwellings.

3 bedrooms, bathroom, entrance hall, lounge, kitchen/breakfast room, utility room, cloakroom, dining room, double glazing, oil central heating and driveway parking. EPC rating: D

NEW

PRICKWILLOW — £285,000

A comfortably proportioned four bedroom detached family home, situated in a pleasant cul de sac location within this popular village just to the North East of Ely.

4 bedrooms, en suite shower room, family bathroom, entrance hall, cloakroom, sitting room, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, utility room, oil central heating, double glazing and enclosed rear garden. EPC rating: C

NEW

MEPAL — £245,000

A beautifully presented detached three bedroom bungalow set within this peaceful residential cul de sac amongst other similar homes.

3 bedrooms, en suite shower room, bathroom, entrance hall, sitting room, conservatory, kitchen/breakfast room, gas central heating, double glazing, driveway, single garage and rear garden. EPC rating: D

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NEW

HADDENHAM **£275,000**

A spacious detached three bedroom bungalow occupying a lovely quiet situation towards the rear of this residential cul de sac.

3 double bedrooms, bathroom, entrance hall, sitting room, kitchen/dining room, playroom/study, double glazing, oil fired central heating, single garage, driveway, enclosed rear garden. EPC rating: F

NEW

ELY **£240,000**

A beautifully presented three bedroom terraced townhouse well situated in this popular residential location.

3 bedrooms, 2 en suite shower rooms, entrance hall, sitting room, kitchen/breakfast room, utility, shower room, gas central heating, double glazing and garage. EPC rating: C

NEW

CHATTERIS **£125,000**

A nicely proportioned semi detached bungalow situated in a pleasant location within a convenient distance of Chatteris main centre and wide ranging amenities.

2 bedrooms, bathroom, entrance hall, sitting room, kitchen, double glazing and gas central heating. EPC rating: E

SUTTON **£124,000**

A well presented two bedroom end of terrace shared ownership property, with 80% equity for sale.

2 bedrooms, bathroom, kitchen, lounge/dining room, entrance hall, allocated parking, rear garden. EPC rating: C

NEW

WITCHFORD **£169,950**

A very well presented two bedroom semi detached property with garage and parking.

2 bedrooms, bathroom, lounge/dining room, kitchen, cloakroom, front and rear gardens, garage and parking. EPC rating: C

NEW

HADDENHAM **£195,000**

A well presented modern three bedroom home nicely situated in a peaceful cul de sac, close to the Church in this popular village.

3 bedrooms, bathroom, entrance hall, living room, kitchen, double glazing, garage and enclosed rear garden. EPC rating: E

NEW

SOHAM **£184,950**

A beautifully presented two bedroom cottage on the ever sought after 'Greenhills', a desirable location in Soham, set in quiet and pleasant surroundings.

2 double bedrooms, newly fitted bathroom, newly fitted kitchen, lounge, dining room, south facing attractive rear garden, patio, enclosed porch and entrance hall. EPC rating: D

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20th 1990 2010 ANNIVERSARY

ELY £680 pcm

A sought after first floor flat in a popular location. The property has been refurbished throughout. On entrance and off the hallway is bedroom 2, bathroom with white suite & shower over bath. Open plan lounge leading into new kitchen with gas hob, electric oven, base & wall units. Bedroom 1. New carpets throughout & decoration. Allocated parking. EPC band C (78)

LITTLEPORT £1,100 pcm

A Modern four Bedroom semi detached Town House. Hall, Kitchen/Diner: Oven, hob, fridge/freezer, washing machine & dishwasher. Lounge, Utility Room, Bed 1 with En Suite shower room & double wardrobe. Family Bathroom with shower over bath. Gas central heating. Garage. Garden with decked area. EPC band C (76)

WILBURTON £550 pcm

A 1 bedroom ground floor flat barn conversion. Kitchen 9'9 x 6' with white goods and base and wall units. Double bedroom 17'8 x 9'7, storage cupboard and shower wet room with white suite. Lounge 15'2 x 12'3. Electric heating, on street parking, village location and good road network with access to Cambridge, Ely, St.Ives and Huntingdon. EPC band D (61)

HADDENHAM £560 pcm

A 2 bedroom terrace bungalow set in an off road position. On entrance and off the hallway is the lounge 16' x 10, bedroom 1- 12'4 x 9'3, bedroom 2- 10'4 x 9'3. Kitchen 10' x 9'11 with dishwasher, fridge/freezer, washing machine, base and wall units. Front and rear garden. Single garage and parking. EPC band E (53)

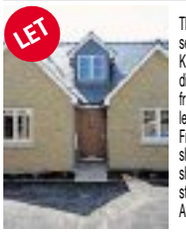
SOHAM £380 pcm

An open plan bedsit which has been refurbished throughout with new bathroom & kitchen. Open plan living area 13'10 x 11'6. Shower bathroom with white suite. Close to town centre. Some parking available. EPC band G (20)

PYMOOR £1,300 pcm

Detached 5 bedroom house set in a rural location, Kitchen with range gas cooker & electric oven, fridge, base & wall units & breakfast area. Utility room, Lounge with wood burner, Dining room, Cloakroom, Bedroom & shower en suite,Family bathroom with white suite. Bedroom 5- on 2nd floor with en suite. Enclosed rear garden & patio with additional paddock. Off road parking. EPC band E

ELY £900 pcm



Three bedroom detached house set in a cul de sac developement, Kitchen/diner with built in dishwasher, gas hob, electric oven, fridge freeze & French doors leading to rear garden. Lounge with French doors, family bathroom with shower over bath. Bedroom 1 with shower en suite & dressing room/ study room, with side gate. Allocated parking. EPC band B (82)

WITCHFORD £1,450 pcm

An individual detached 4 bedroom family home. The house has many character features. Lounge with inglenook style fireplace. Conservatory Dining room. Kitchen/ breakfast room. Utility room. Study. Family room. Bedroom 1 with shower en suite. Single garage with workshop to the rear. Enclosed rear garden with raised decking area. Block paved driveway. EPC band C

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Your Guide to Moving Home

Moving home can be a complicated business and in the hectic run up to the big day it is all too easy to forget something vital. The team offers their readers this handy checklist to help avoid any major pitfalls. We suggest you tick them off as you go....

1 4–2 WEEKS TO GO:

- ❑ **Packing** – start packing and sorting through your belongings. Now is a good time to de-clutter and pack items rarely used. Make sure you have plenty of sturdy boxes, bubble wrap and sticky tape.
- ❑ **Removal companies** – get estimates from removal companies, checking that comprehensive insurance cover is available against damage or loss. Is there a packing and unpacking service? Confirm the date of your move with the firm you have chosen.
- ❑ **Insurance** – check on your home contents insurance policies to ensure that you are covered for the move, and covered at your new address.
- ❑ **Utilities** – make arrangements for your gas and electricity meters (plus water meters where relevant) to be read and all your appliances to be disconnected on the day of your move. Arrange to take over gas and electricity at your new address, and make sure that all appliances will be properly fitted, plumbed or connected.
- ❑ **Telecommunications** – Notify your telephone and broadband provider and ask them to make the necessary arrangements for a final account at your present address, and for taking over or installing telephone and broadband facilities at your new home.
- ❑ **Post** – Look into re-directing your post for a few months to make sure you receive all relevant correspondence.
- ❑ **Children** – Look into the possibility of your children, especially young children, staying with family or friends on the day of the move.
- ❑ **Pets** – Make arrangements for any pets to be booked into a cattery or kennels if required. Having your pets microchipped is a good idea and if already microchipped, have the address changed to your new one. Your vet can advise on this.

2

Change of address – tell companies and organisations that you are moving!

Notify:

- ❑ Employer
- ❑ Inland revenue
- ❑ Local council
- ❑ Banks or Building Societies
- ❑ Credit companies, store cards & other accounts
- ❑ Gas, Electricity and water boards
- ❑ Insurance companies
- ❑ Land / mobile phones
- ❑ Internet and cable / satellite TV providers
- ❑ Doctor, Dentist and Opticians
- ❑ DVLA
- ❑ Veterinary surgery
- ❑ TV Licensing

3 1 WEEK TO GO:

- ❑ **Delivery address** – change delivery address of your Cambridge News, milk, groceries and fuel to your new address as appropriate.
- ❑ **Laundry** – do any last minute laundry that you can – have you arranged for a plumber to disconnect your washing machine correctly?
- ❑ **Kitchen cupboards** – go through your kitchen cupboards and throw out anything not in date. Also check that all jars and bottles are correctly sealed before packing.
- ❑ **Fridges / Freezers** – empty and clean out in preparation for moving. If you are moving a freezer and its contents, turn it up to maximum for a couple of days before you move.
- ❑ **Valuables / documents** – put these in safe place for moving day

4 2–1 DAYS TO GO:

- ❑ **Packing** – pack a bag for overnight essentials and toiletries and finish all remaining packing into boxes. Remember to label which room each box is destined for.
- ❑ **Snack box** – pack a box for the kitchen to include essentials like tea, coffee and sugar, as well as the kettle and mugs! Also include other snacks as necessary.
- ❑ **Dismantle and disconnect** – take down curtains, fixtures and fittings and disconnect white goods ready for transport.
- ❑ **Outdoor items** – make sure that these are stacked together and ready to be moved.
- ❑ **Mobile** – place your mobile on charge the night before moving and ensure that all relevant people have your number.

5 ON MOVING DAY:

AT YOUR OLD ADDRESS:

- ❑ Strip beds and pack bedding and nightclothes.
- ❑ Finish packing toiletries box.
- ❑ Direct removal firm personnel or friends helping you move as to what needs to be done.
- ❑ Turn off electric appliances.
- ❑ Disconnect cooker.
- ❑ Turn off boiler / central heating.
- ❑ Turn off water.
- ❑ Read gas meter.
- ❑ Read electricity meter.
- ❑ Secure all windows.
- ❑ Lock all doors.
- ❑ Make final checks and leave key as arranged with new owners.

AT YOUR NEW HOME:

- ❑ Open up & have a look around the new house.
- ❑ Locate fuse box, gas and electric meter and stop cock for reference.
- ❑ Take readings on gas, electric and water meters as appropriate.
- ❑ Organise the direction of boxes to appropriate rooms.
- ❑ Check the van after all is unloaded.
- ❑ Make the beds up for the evening.
- ❑ Sit down and relax – unpack the other boxes the next day.

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the guide

BIG EYES: Children enjoyed bug hunting at Wicken Fen last year. Picture: Keith Heppell

It's half term!

THERE'S no need for the little ones to get bored this half-term.

A whole host of children's activities are being held across the Ely area to keep them entertained during the school break.

■ On Saturday, February 14, families can get closer to nature with the Ely Wildlife Watch group.

They are hosting an event called 'Sticktastic' where children can discover some unusually exciting things to do with a stick, and see how many trees they can identify by simply looking at their twigs.

Families should meet at the Fisherman's Car Park in Willow Walk at 2pm and wear stout footwear and warm clothes. The event is free although a donation of 50p per child would be welcomed. Call Clive on (01353) 610224.

■ Ely's Oliver Cromwell House, in St Mary's Street, is hosting a 'Meet Mrs Cromwell' event on Saturday, February 14.

Families can join her on a costumed guided tour of the house, learn about the tokens of love given at Valentine's in the 17th century and make their own 'love spoon' to give to someone special on Valentine's Day.

The fun is from 11.30am-12.30pm, the cost is £6 for adults and £3.50 for children, and pre-booking is advised by calling (01353) 662062.

■ Families can also have a flipping good time, quite literally, in Little Downham on Saturday, February 14.

A pancake morning and jumble sale is being held at the village-1pm. All funds raised will be donated to St Leonard's Church

Turn to page 43

what's on / music / theatre / cinema / classical music

the guide

ROUND UP

An Evening With Michael Portillo, Cambridge Arts Theatre, Sunday, February 22 at 8pm. Tickets £12.50 - £22.50 from (01223) 503333 / bridgeartstheatre.com.
A chance to quiz broadcaster and former Tory politician Michael Portillo.

- PRAVDA realises Thatcher's 1985 Britain on stage at the ADC, Cambridge, next week. Written by Howard Brenton and David Hare it sees ruthless newspaper man Lambert Le Roux terrify everyone with a regime of unethical behaviour and punishment. But will he fall prey to his own power hungry nature? And will the backbone of the British press prevail? Let's hope so. The show is running from Tuesday until Saturday at 7.45pm.Tickets are £7-£12 from (01223) 300085.
- DELVE into the unknown and the miraculous with Amygdala Wonderland. An abandoned flat is the setting for a being called Strange to tell his life story. Utilising tape recordings, costumes and prop boxes you will learn about a life teaching English as a foreign language, trainspotting, and an all-consuming obsession with the cityscape. The show is on at the Larkum Studio at the ADC from Tuesday until Saturday at 8pm.Tickets are just £5-£6 from (01223) 300085.

CIRCUS

Cirque Berserk, Cambridge Corn Exchange, Friday, February 20 – Sunday, February 22 at various times. Tickets £19-£26 from (01223) 357851 / cornex.co.uk.

Don't try this at home

CIRQUE Berserk is not your average night at the circus.
There is no big top in the park, no pale and timid crockery smash with a sad, fumbling clown; instead this is a zingy, punchy, heart-in-your-mouth, hands-over-your-eyes type circus.
Heading to Cambridge Corn Exchange for the very first time, they're the only troupe to stage what has been dubbed "the world's most dangerous circus act", aka the Globe of Terror, in the UK.
What does it involve? Three motorcyclists with nerves that defy belief race round inside a circular steel cage at more than 60mph. Utter madness you'll agree – for some idea, check out the opening scene of the Ryan Gosling film, *The Place Beyond The Pines*.
It'll make your palms sweat for sure.

Joining the stunt team are more than 30 jugglers, acrobats, swooping aerialists on ribbons, a woman who is an expert archer, firing arrows with her feet, as well as pyrotechnics, knife throwing, dance, live music and "the best clown I have ever seen" (according to the Guardian), physical comedian Tweedy.

They're the only troupe to stag what has been dubbed 'the world's most dangerous circus act' aka the Globe of Terror, in the UK

It's the team's first nationwide tour following a sold out stint at Hyde Park's Winter Wonderland over Christmas.

In general, reports have used words like "dangerously thrilling", "eye-poppingly wonderful", "jaw-slackening" and "heart-stoppingly good fun" to describe the spectacle, but we're hoping it's so astounding you won't actually be able to use words on leaving the theatre.

Remember kids; don't try any of this at home…

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INDOORS, OUTDOORS: Get involved in the swan feeds at Welney Wetlands Reserve, above.
Right: Fun during half term last year at Ely Stained Glass Museum

Guide to half term fun

Continued from page 41

and the Children's Society. For information, call (01353) 698280.

■ On Monday, February 16, Burrows Bookshop in Ely's High Street Passage is holding a children's creative writing session.

The session is from 11am-12.30pm and is open to children aged 7-10. The cost is £5 per child and materials will be provided. Places need to be booked in advance by calling (01353) 669759 or by popping into the bookshop.

On Saturday, February 21, the bookshop is also hosting its regular Saturday Storytime sessions. It's from 11.30am-12.15pm and the cost is £2.50 per child, which includes storytelling, juice and biscuits.

■ Ely Cathedral is hosting its regular half-term children's drop-in activities on Monday, February 16 and Wednesday, February 18.

The sessions, which are free and run from 10am-12pm, see children enjoying craft activities, brass rubbing, treasure trails and storytelling. Call (01353) 659668.

HOLIDAY TREATS: Children had fun at Ely's Oliver Cromwell House during Half Term last year

■ On Tuesday, February 17, Soham Library is inviting little ones to an Alice in Wonderland themed craft session.

The event is at the library, in Clay Street, from 10.30-11.30am. Fancy dress is optional and tickets, priced at £1.50, need to be purchased in advance by popping into the library.

■ A Half-Term Glass Fusing Workshop will be held at Ely's Stained Glass Museum on Wednesday 18 February, 2-4pm. Join local artist Sarah Hunt to design and build your own small glass fused panel using coloured glass gems, noodles, stringers and frits. Advance booking necessary. £10.00 per child (01353) 660347.

■ Also on Wednesday, The Brook in Brook Street, Soham, is also holding a children's workshop themed around the popular Disney film, Frozen. For times and ticket details, call (01353) 669759.

■ Ely Museum, in Market Street, is inviting youngsters to go along and celebrate Chinese New Year with them on Thursday, February 19 at a special craft session it is hosting to celebrate the year of the sheep.

The event is running from 11am-12.30pm, is suitable for children aged 5-11 and tickets are £3. Parents should purchase tickets in advance by calling (01353) 666655.

■ Littleport Leisure Centre, in Camel Road, is also holding numerous children's holiday activities on Monday, February 16, Tuesday, February 17 and Thursday, February 19. For details, call (01353) 860600.

■ For kids who love to be outdoors, why not head to Wicken Fen Nature Reserve.

A whole host of half-term activities are being held, including 'wild art' sessions on Tuesday, February 17 at 10.30am and 2pm.

On Thursday, February 19, at the same times, there are also 'go wild' activities where kids can enjoy den building and geocaching. For information, call (01353) 720274.

■ The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) at Welney offers swan feeds, hare walks, winter trails, indoor craft activities and owl pellet dissections. The activities are being held from Saturday, February 14 right the way through to Sunday, February 22. For details, visit www.wwt.org.uk/visit/welney or call (01353) 864024.

POETRY AND PROSE

Fen Speak – opportunity for poets and writers to shine!

ELY plays host to another fantastic night of poetry and prose next week when Fen Speak returns to the city.

All local poets, writers and storytellers are invited to go along and share their work at this month's Fen Speak on Wednesday, February 18.

Fen Speak is the only open mic night in the area specifically dedicated to poetry and spoken word; helping writers to develop their performance skills and providing a brilliant event for those seeking a night out – with a difference!

The event will be held at Ely's Babylon Gallery, in Waterside.

Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start, and all ages and abilities welcome, with no obligation to perform.

Entry to Fen Speak is free on the night (although donations are welcome) and refreshments will be available for all those who need a little glass of something before taking to the stage.

For more details, visit www.facebook.com/groups/Fenspeak.

Fen Speak, Babylon Gallery, Ely. Wednesday, February 18 at 7.30pm. Free entry.

CLOSER TO HOME

● TICKETS for Ely Cathedral's Sparkling Valentine's Day Concert on Saturday, February 14, featuring pianist Warren Mailley-Smith and soprano, Susan Parkes, are available by calling (01353) 660349.
The concert starts at 7.30pm and tickets are £20.

● THE award-winning Jennifer Crook Trio are heading for Ely on Wednesday, February 18. The Ely Folk Club concert is at the Old Dispensary at 8pm and the talented Foxglove Trio are supporting them. Tickets are £9 on the door or £8 in advance. Call (01353) 740999.

● SOHAM'S KD Theatre Productions is looking for talented young performers aged 6-18 to star in its upcoming production of Disney's Aladdin.
Audition workshops are being held at the Ross Peers Sports Centre in Soham on Sunday, February 15. The workshop for those aged 11-16 is from 10am-1pm and the one for children aged 6-10 is from 2-4pm. Call (01638) 781037.

● 2012 Spanish film, Blancanieves (Snow White), is being screened in Ely on Monday, February 16.
The Ely Film Society screening is at the Old Palace at 7.30pm. Call (01353) 668639.

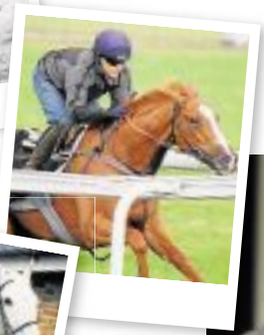
● FANS of classic TV comedy are in for a treat when the Ely Amateur Dramatic Society performs The Vicar of Dibley. Performances are at Ely College from Wednesday, February 18 to Saturday, February 21 at 7.30pm each night. Tickets are £8 and are available from Burrows Bookshop in Ely, or by calling (01353) 669759.

● PETER Day is hosting a ballroom and sequence dance at the Hiam Sports and Social Club on Saturday, February 14 from 8-11pm.
On Friday, February 20 there will be a line dance disco there with The Record Machine. Call (01353) 688269.

● 'IN Grendel's Footsteps: A Journey into the Heart of the Fens' is currently at Ely's Babylon Gallery.
The exhibition tells the stories of Fenland's thriving communities through prose, poetry, photography by Rebecca Hall Green and much more.
The exhibition is at the gallery throughout February and is open Tuesday to Sunday from 12-4pm. Call (01353) 616995.

● IRISH and country musician Kenny Paul will be delighting the crowds in Soham on Friday, February 13.
He is performing at The Brook from 9pm onwards and tickets are £12.50. On Saturday, February 14, Billy G will also be bringing a night of good old rock 'n' roll plus music from the 50's and 60's to the venue.
The event starts at 9pm and tickets are £6. Call (01353) 721748.

Art is my love after ended my career



RACING LIFE: Seven-year-old Mark on Rusty at a gymkhana in Dorset, top, Mark in action on the gallops, above, and astride Desert Orchid, left

A freak accident while riding out in Newmarket ended Mark Perry's horseracing career. Seven operations later he suffers constant pain but has turned his life around to become an accomplished artist. Louise Cummings meets the inspiring 46-year-old at his Soham home and workshop.

From the minute his parents plonked him on the back of a pint-size pony called Rusty when he was just five years old, Mark Perry knew he wanted to be a jockey. "Rusty was blind in one eye, bless him, and I just loved riding him," Mark smiles, recalling his childhood sidekick. "My parents both had horses so I rode a lot as a child and then I moved on to the show scene, gymkhanas and things like that. It was my first real love and whenever anyone asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up I'd say: 'I'm going to be a jockey!'"

Despite a hunger for life in the saddle, a second love was vying for Mark's attention as he developed a flair for art. "My father was a qualified carpenter and always doing lovely paintings and my mum was good at drawing as well, so with the combination of the two I picked up a natural talent for art," he explains. "I was never particularly academic and suffered terribly with dyslexia at school, so the teachers tended to focus on what I was good at – art."

On the brink of adulthood, Mark was faced with a dilemma of which passion to pursue as a career, but chose the gallops over gesso, reasoning that art could follow when his lithe body could no longer keep up with the gruelling demands of the racing word.

Sadly that time came much sooner than planned, when, on a cold winter's morning in November 2011, Mark was thrown spectacularly from his horse. The injuries to his left leg were so catastrophic that six surgeons had to battle for 11 hours to avoid amputation. Thanks to pioneering surgery – a muscle transplant from his uninjured leg – the severely damaged limb was saved, but a further six operations later Mark depends on a cocktail of painkillers.

However, the steely determination that saw him succeed in the world of racing has spurred the father-of-two on to embrace a new career as an artist.

Sat amid Mark's portfolio of work, which he's proudly displaying for our photographer, I'm struck by how his two worlds have collided to such dramatic effect. Facing me is a huge canvas of champion racehorse Frankel; each brushstroke capturing the majesty of the stallion, the glossiness of his coat and the definition of his muscles.

"I was at the Guineas when Frankel won," Mark tells me. "I was down at the start with the horse that caused my injury because he needed seeing into the stalls. Horses are my easiest subject really because I know them so well; I understand their muscles and for me painting them is second nature. I've painted a lot of horses for trainers and jockeys over the years."

Mark's artistic repertoire is diverse, taking in sculpture, woodwork, photography and multi-media pieces, which he promises to show me on a tour of his workshop later, but for now I'm keen to hear more about his racing career.

"My father had connections with a trainer in Lambourn at the stables of Matty McCormack, so I went along, rode out one morning and he said 'yes, come along' and shortly after that I became an apprentice jockey. I was just 17."

Mark was a natural, and rose through the ranks, becoming travelling head lad and head lad, riding world-wide, and spending much time in Italy, Germany and France. He even got to perch upon the iconic grey Desert Orchid. "It was an absolute privilege to ride him and he was such a gentleman. His name will always be up there with the Red Rums and so forth so to be connected to him is amazing," he smiles.

Moving to Newmarket in his early 20s, Mark discovered flat racing was his true passion, and excelled as a freelance work rider. "There's nothing like the feeling of riding a live animal. It's different to being on a motorbike when you've got full control and can go at silly speeds. You're on the back of an animal that can go over 35 miles per hour at full gallop and the feel of the wind is so exhilarating. I miss it so much now," he says, suddenly serious. "If I go into Newmarket and see the horses, I find it very difficult. When it's a love of your life, when you do it because you love it, not because it's financially rewarding, that is a big thing to suddenly have taken away. I was obviously going to hang up my boots at some point, but the decision came sooner because of the accident."

Mark's life-shattering fall, which happened while exercising a horse on a trotting ring in Newmarket, remains vivid in his mind. "The flat season had come to an end and the horses were winding down in terms of exercise. That has an effect on them because they get fresher and want to do more and jump," he explains. "We had just got to the first bend and there were some people standing in an area they shouldn't, which spooked the horse. He bucked and tried to kick out at them and as he came back down he whipped around and so I was thrown up in the air and down to nothing, feet first, still holding on to the reins. It's quite a common manoeuvre called 'getting dropped' and you usually land on your feet and someone comes along and legs you back up into the saddle. But falling from such a height on to a very uneven fibre-sand surface, all the weight and momentum went through my left leg and it shattered both the bones."

Writhing in agony on the ground, Mark feared he had a compound fracture – and in fact so intense was the impact that his bones broke through his skin, severing arteries.

"When I first hit the ground it sounded like a gun going off and people apparently heard it from the other side of the ring. I was lying there in the drizzle, hyperventilating because of the searing pain, with people trying to keep me warm because shock had set in," Mark recalls with a shudder. "I knew it was bad because it felt all warm around my leg... when the paramedics cut through my chaps and jeans they confirmed my worst fears."

At Addenbrooke's Hospital Mark had emergency surgery to save his leg. "As I went into the operating theatre it was still up in the air as to whether they would have to amputate. In the first operation they put a metal rod

horror fall in racing

through the main bone and then got all the bone fragments and lined them up to butt against the main bone."

Next day, Mark needed a further complex operation. "For bone to heal well it has to have a good blood supply and because the bones had split out of my leg, they'd ruined the arteries. The surgeons had to take a large muscle section out of the top of my right leg with good vessels and arteries to then place into my injured leg."

Mark was in hospital for over a month, where he had to rest on an airbed in a special room kept at an optimum temperature to aid recovery. He has undergone five operations since and a lot of physiotherapy.

Surprisingly, he's not bitter about the lot he's been dealt. "I've never been one of those people who has said 'oh look at me, isn't this sad'. The upshot is it's ended my racing career, and now I'm starting on my second career, which is both scary and exciting at the same time!"

Thankfully Mark also has the love of a good woman, his wife Liz, who he married last autumn. The pair, who have five children between them, share a home in Soham with their adorable Labrador Luna and cat Jasmine.

Strolling through the garden to Mark's studio, I feel like I'm stepping into another world. It's the stuff of pure fantasy, a full-size Darth Vader standing guard ominously in one corner and a whole cast of menacing Star Wars characters on the lookout from the other.

"Coming from an age when Star Wars first came out, that really inspired me because it took me to a world I'd never seen before, so a lot of my art is mystical and futuristic," Mark explains.

Most of the sculptures look straight off a George Lucas film set, rather than the product of hour upon hour of meticulous sculpting by Mark using clay and resin. His C-3PO is really rather remarkable, the cool blue Na'vi (from Avatar) would surely make James Cameron proud and the sculptor's bloodied Arnold Schwarzenegger Terminator head, half skin, half machine, is impressive and macabre in equal measure.

It's not all sci-fi though as I spy elaborate copper wire sculptures: there's a squirrel scampering up a hollow log (destined to be an uplighter), a horse rearing up magnificently on its hind legs and a willowy figure with staff, set onto polished slate, which has an air of Tolkien's Gandalf. There's also an array of paintings of cats and dogs commissioned by pet owners.

Find out more about Mark's work on his website fine-art-solutions.com. The Frankel painting is for sale, POA, and is available as a 250 limited edition print, a third of the size.

Back in the lounge, I'm rather taken by Mark's latest handiwork, a Japanese-style wire tree with emerald glass beads woven on to branches to signify foliage. A stunning sculpture of twisted silver-plated wire, I'm tempted to put in an offer, but Liz assures me she's laid claim to her husband's newest creation.

Wirework, painting, sculpture, woodwork, photography. . . there really is no end to Mark's talents, so perhaps it's fateful that life intervened to make him switch career?

"It's been a slow process building up my portfolio, but I'm really hoping to make a career out of my art. I've got some work in Galleria restaurant in Cambridge, but I just need someone to spot what I can do and be willing to take me under their wing or for a gallery to take me on," he says.

"I'm not one to say I want to be a famous artist; most artists are dead before they get famous. I just want to be able to make a nice living from this, and that way in my twilight years I can look back and think, well, how brilliant I got paid for doing my two hobbies!"

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JAYNE 35, loving romantic, warm, caring auburn haired beauty seeks older kind male, 30-60yrs for loving genuine relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 416295**

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. **Tel No: 0905 002 1880 Box No: 413399**

VERY attractive, sensual, curvy brunette looking for no strings, no commitment fun only. Any age/status/looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 416231**

ADVENTUROUS sexy lady, 38yrs, married but seeks no strings fun with discreet man, any age. I'm tall, slim and dominant. Aca. **Tel No: 0905 002 1934 Box No: 415301**

YOU don't know what you are missing! Helen 41, really pretty voluptuous confident lady, WLTM nice man for good times. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 416075**

ANNE, mid 40's, cheerful busty cuvy affectionate real woman! Seeks gent, any age or looks for nights at mine. **Tel No: 0905 002 1950 Box No: 410291**

YOUNG discreet 38yr old blue eyed blonde with varied interests, looking for older man for romantic nights in. Status/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 416071**

DISCREET lady, 42yrs wants to make you happy, come to me and let me do that for you. ACA. **Tel No: 0905 002 1954 Box No: 409901**

CASEY-ANN divorced female, pretty size 10, blonde, OHAC, varied interests and lots to offer Mr Reliable, looking to find and fall in love again. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 415839**

ALISON, 27 busty, shapely lady seeks fun only with broad minded man. Aca. **Tel No: 0905 002 1958 Box No: 416073**

FUN uncomplicated distraction required! Sam sensual black female looking to fill spare time and boredom with fun male for adult times. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 415823**

JANET, 36yrs Scottish lady, too shy to go out but loves to chat from home. Will answer all texts. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4627442**

BRENDA petite slim single mum, nice looking, outgoing, just wanting an honest, sincere Mr Average with GSOH and big kind heart for friendship maybe ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 415553**

MELANIE, sophisticated solvent brunette wltm working man of any age, im 32yrs. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4627443**

SLIM single female, 30's, seeks male for friendship and outings. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 415713**

LINDY, new to area, hoping to meet kind many of any age, looks unimportant. Im 43yrs blonde and petite. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4627444**

SAM 32yrs petite pretty seeking genuine good-hearted male for loving relationship. If you're out there please call and restore my faith in dating. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 415413**

PAMELA, married to boring man! Text only for fun phone frolics. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4624149**

WIDOW 78, N/S, house owner, seeks genuine gent of similar age for companionship. Ipswich area. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 414743**

JUDITH attractive curvy sensual black lady seeking kind genuine mature male companion for adult fun, meals in/out and passionate weekends home or away. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 415397**

JULIA, seeks fifty shades of grey! You should be strong minded and seeking fun. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4627445**

JENNY 38, petite, blonde busty, looking for my sugar daddy, GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 415311**

SUSIE bubbly blonde looking for fun. Age/looks unimportant but must have a sense of adventure. Can travel and accommodate. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4624145**

DOREEN 40's attractive blonde, nice figure, solvent, OHAC, no ties, enjoys keeping fit, holidays away, WLTM someone to share all the good things in life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 415383**

PHILLIPA 22yrs just left boarding school, hoping to meet experienced working class man for real life fun. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4624147**

JENNY 38yr old attractive divorced mum of one, green eyes, blonde, interesting with varied interests, WLTM genuine kind male for hopeful romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 415189**

SLIM brunette 36yrs hoping to meet older gent for friendship, fun, maybe more. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4624146**

CAROLINE 24yr old blonde slim beautiful, active, fun European female looking for kind, cuddly loving man for romantic companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 415565**

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PAMMY 42yrs, recently divorced and fancies becoming a "cougar". **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4624148**

SHELIA attractive natural blonde curvy female looking for nice guy to share good times with and to make my life complete. Call/text me. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 415541**

KATHY 35yr old outgoing female looking for casual dates with fun guy who has no hang ups or complications. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 415517**

LEANNE black open-minded female looking for white male for adult fun times. discretion assured/required. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 415511**

SOPHIE 29yr old large black lady with very large bust looking for professional or retired naughty friend with GSOH, discreet disposition and generous nature. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 415171**

SANDY part time nurse, loves holidays, dancing, walking, nights in/out, seeks mature male to enjoy weekend activities and adult romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 414971**

JEN first time advertiser and a little shy, single mum looking for nice guy for chats, to go out and generally just enjoy life with, N/S preferred. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 414965**

ABI single fun outgoing young 27yrs, tall, slim, OHAC, employed looking for similar male for good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 414369**

ATTRACTIVE Princess, 50, likes music, good things in life, seeking Prince charming with GSOH, honest and generous to bring happiness and love. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 414791**

CHARLIE 22yr old young female looking for older male for fun times only, no complications or questions asked. Reliability and respect expected and assured. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 414947**

BEA petite 40's female, attractive, nice natured, social, many likes and interests, seeking independent male to share new interests, hobbies and lots of adult time. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 414943**

PLAIN Jane 38yrs true country lass looking for fun frolics down on the farm with real non pretentious happy man, there must be one out there for me! **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 414693**

TALL lovely lady 50's, long hair, likes pina colada and getting caught in the rain, seeks genuine, loyal, homely man with GSOH and 6ft in height. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 414575**

SARAH 42, blonde, sexy, curvy, up for fun, seeking similar male. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 410361**

LYNDA 19yr old naughty by nature female green eyes, dark hair looking for fun times with mature male who thinks he can handle a real live wire. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 414719**

PRETTY 34yr old paramedic, long dark hair, nice eyed, feminine, size 12, caring, looking for fun times in or out with nice guy, maybe leading to more. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 414715**

ANN pretty blonde, young looking, slim, no ties, seeking male 40-50's to go out with, enjoy adult conversation, maybe leading to something more. Pls call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 414503**

CLARE 26, fun, honest, loving and loyal, employed, no ties, OHAC, seeks genuine man 25-50yrs to get to know, spend quality times, dates in/out and great conversation. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 414393**

SARAH 20yr old attractive blonde, medium height, size 10, busty, tanned, fun, looking for male, any age, for text chats, meets and maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 414483**

FEMALE 72, seeking gent, 72-76 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 409767**

SHY 38yr old pretty slim female looking for sensitive male who is looking for some adult fun. Any age/looks race or status. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 414371**

NINA 35yrs pretty brunette, slim, medium height, nice smile, good manners, loves girlie things, cooking, shopping, dancing, meals in/out, WLTM affectionate passionate guy. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 414233**

JEAN 46, petite, well mannered, employed, OHAC, enjoys meals out, nice wine, golf, gardening, holidays, seeks 60's kind man with GSOH. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 414221**

PAM 42, attractive employed, slim, fit, interesting brunette, OHAC, seeking similar sporty, fun N/S male for weekends away, meals out and lots of laughs. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 414197**

MICHELLE 25yr old single mum to one WLTM male for companionship, nights in/out, hopefully leading to more. Age/looks unimportant, single dad welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 414187**

KAREN lonely 47yr old social female, size 16, not very tall but big on personality, likes cinema, football, looking for some male company, ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 414183**

KAREN 40's curvy size 16 female, many interests including sport, reading, looking for a real man who can handle a real woman for dates in/out and text chats. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 413871**

ZOE 31, blonde blue eyed easygoing single mum of one seeking fun guy with GSOH for relationship, some adult conversation and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 413583**

KATHY 37, gorgeous mixed race single female, 5ft 8ins, slim, sensual, just looking for kind, trustworthy guy any age, looks or race. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 413395**

JULIE very attractive 18yrs seeking loving caring honest male for possible relationship, no time wasters pls, I am genuinely looking for love. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 413455**

BEAUTIFUL Spanish senorita, new to the UK, single and very lonely, looking for kind caring older male to share cuddles and quality times with. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 413413**

DEBS single with no ties, OHAC, normal, passionate, romantic, just missing that special man in my life to enjoy good wine, music, great conversations, if your him, call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 413203**

PROFESSIONAL lady, widow, 5ft 7ins, likes music, meals out, nights in, seeking honest, genuine, kind male, N/S, 69-74 for friendship, maybe more. Suffolk. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 413175**

SUE 38yrs enjoys most things, meals in/out, easygoing, broadminded, passionate, slightly feisty, looking for adult fun, call me if you're interested in spicing things up. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 413007**

FIONA 32yr old female looking for professional sincere honest guy to enjoy the company of and see where it takes us. Age unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 413001**

Men seeking women

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.53 per minute plus network extras.

MALE likes rock/pop/indie, tall, slim, young 50 something, GSOH, honest, caring, romantic, non materialistic, seeks genuine lady for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 415059**

EX serviceman looking for a friendly easy going female who enjoys life and laughing 35-45. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4629424**

MALE 70 smart, fit, seeks female, 60-70 for days out, country, coast, nights in/out, fun, friendship and maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 416273**

MATTHEW, 43 widower, business manager, solvent, reasonable looks but lonely. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4624150**

MARK 50, single dad, looking for female, 40-50 for friendship and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 416115**

LANDSCAPE/BUILDER wrong side of 40, fun, fit, kind, seeks black/white female for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 416027**

MICHAEL 55, own business, time on my hands day/night, seeks petite lady for fun times, possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 415933**

FUN loving easy going guy, good looking, 5ft 10ins, stocky, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 415581**

GARY 55, looking for female, 45-55, likes nights out, romantic dinners etc. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 415557**

ATTRACTIVE tall fit guy, 50, dark hair, fun, romantic, passionate, seeks sexy lady for fun dates, laughter and good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 415387**

HUNKY builder, 50, adventurous but kind, seeks female for fun, friendship and LTR. Black/white/Asian. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 415357**

FIT 39yr old Ipswich male, seeks special female for mistletoe kisses and lasting relationship, OHAC. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 415615**

GOOD catch looking to get caught, easy going professional guy 46, OHAC, seeking lovely lady for relationship. Ipswich area. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 415589**

SILVER haired 59yr old male, 5ft 9ins, good looking, solvent, seeks slim lady, 50-60 to see how it goes, hopefully LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 415329**

TALL slim, young 50 something male, longish hair, GSOH, likes rock/indie music, seeks lady for friendship, hopefully relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 415257**

MALE mid 60's, 5ft 5ins, medium build, N/S, GSOH, likes most things, country walks, meals out, theatre, cinema, seeks female up to 68. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 415337**

PROFESSIONAL male, N/S, own home/business, solvent, smart, attractive, romantic, loving personality, GSOH, seeking LTR with genuine female. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 415353**

CEMENT to be! Builder seeking concrete relationship with fun loving female. Children/pets welcome, any age/race. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 415215**

JAMIE 50, OHAC, widowed, seeking female to socialise with, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 415197**

59YR old male, silver hair, reasonable build, seeks slim lady, 50ish. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 414989**

KIND male, 49, likes cinema, meals out, concerts, travel, seeks loving lady, 38-52 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 414913**

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GEOFF looking for female companion, 40-60 to go sailing on my catamaran in the Mediterranean. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 414857**

JOHN 36, easy going, GSOH, 6ft 3ins, likes comedy, music, seeking nice lady for fun and laughter. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 414829**

NICE looking guy 50, dark hair, hazel eyes, GSOH, likes walks, meals out, seeks attractive lady for wining/dining and romancing. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 414823**

DEAN 5ft 10ins, medium build, nice, gentle, genuine, loving, funny, outgoing, energetic, likes nights in/out, seeks similar female. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 414277**

DAN 50, nice looking, athletic, good company, seeks slim, attractive, broadminded, adventurous female for discreet exciting meetings. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 414671**

JAMIE 50, OHAC, widowed, works some nights, seeking female for uncomplicated friendship and nights out. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 414611**

MID 50's Ipswich male, seeks smart, older lady for daytime adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 414455**

CARING male, 41, looking for fun and laughter, seeking female, 30-48 for loving lasting relationship with GSOH and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 414357**

NICE working guy, 50, tall, athletic, dark hair, fun, romantic, caring, seeking attractive lady for friendship and fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 414349**

DEAN 5ft 10ins, average build, nice, gentle, genuine, loving, funny, outgoing, likes nights in/out, seeks similar female. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 414277**

GENUINE 70yr old gent, caring, honest, likes DIY, gardening, meals out, travel, home life, seeks lady with similar interests for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 414129**

FIT trendy caring 39yr old Ipswich male, OHAC, looking for love, seeks female for lasting relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 413943**

MALE 49, young looking, seeking female, 25-50. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 413759**

BILL 74, caring, loving, honest, affectionate, likes DIY, gardening, cinema, countryside, seaside, seeks female of similar age for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 413473**

Men seeking men

FIT 55yr old male, seeks CD/TV for fun and games. Suffolk. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 415607**

Male 60 seeks cd male for fun times. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4311477**

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Wheels

Bond books his 'Spectre' cars

JAGUAR Land Rover has announced its line-up of vehicles set to feature in SPECTRE, the 24th James Bond adventure, from Albert R. Broccoli's EON Productions, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios, and Sony Pictures Entertainment. These will include the Jaguar C-X75, Range Rover Sport SVR and Defender Big Foot, which have been provided by Jaguar Land Rover Special Operations.

The Jaguar C-X75 will feature in a spectacular car chase sequence through Rome alongside the Aston Martin DB10. The C-X75 vehicles used in filming have been built in collaboration with Williams Advanced Engineering facility in Oxfordshire, England.

Scenes including the heavily modified versions of Land Rover Defender & Range Rover Sport SVR have already been filmed in Austria. The Range Rover Sport SVR is the fastest and most powerful Land Rover ever. The highly capable Big Foots were constructed by Special Operations with huge 37-inch diameter off-road tyres to tackle the extreme terrain. They also feature bespoke suspension systems and enhanced body protection.

BONDED: The cars for the upcoming Bond film

Managing director of Jaguar Land Rover Special Operations, John Edwards, said: "This is an exciting partnership for Jaguar Land Rover and an opportunity to demonstrate the fantastic capabilities of the Special Operations team."

Jaguar and Land Rover vehicles have been involved in a succession of Bond films. Most recently, in 2012, the rugged Defender 110 Double Cab Pick Up was driven by field agent Eve Moneypenny in the opening sequence to SKYFALL.

Murketts' Grand Slam

PERFORMER: Adam Grand Slam

ORDER books are now open at Murketts Vauxhall Vauxhall's all-new, range-topping Adam Grand Slam; a hot performance version of the manufacturer's popular, urban-chic city car.

The retailer, with sites in Cambridge and Huntingdon, is delighted about the news for the Adam Grand Slam, which is priced from £16,995 and comes with a spirited 150PS and 220Nm of torque and a 1 top speed of 30mph.

More at *murketts.co.uk*.

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Wheels

HYUNDAI: More i10 possibilities

Hyundai i10 gets New Generation

HYUNDAI has announced an addition to the New Generation i10 line-up. The new range-topping Premium SE derivative will offer customers levels of comfort and technology usually found in the segment above.

Priced at £11,995 for the manual gearbox, and £12,650 OTR for the automatic, Premium SE customers will benefit from 15-inch alloys; an electric tilt and slide glass sunroof; rear parking sensors; smart key with engine stop/start button; chrome effect exterior door handles; climate control, heated front seats and steering wheel.

Hyundai now adds the space saver spare tyre as a standard feature on new SE models and above. The order books for the New Generation i10 Premium SE are open now.

Call Hyundai Marshall of Cambridge on 0844 243 5649 for full details.

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Closing date for applications is Friday 23rd February 2015. For further information about these vacancies and an application pack, please email: helpdesk@almaren.co.uk or write to Sarah Reid, Campbell Buchanan LLP, James Hall, Parsons Green, St Ives, Cambs PE27 4AA. No agencies please.

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Deadline for applications Sunday 22 February

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Please note the closing date for these positions is 18/02/2015

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Or by email to: **james@mdanthony.com**

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Closing date: 26 February 12 noon

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BOWLS

Last eight double for City stars

CITY of Ely will be mounting an assault on a pair of national quarter-finals this weekend.

The club's men's team will be in action in the Denny Cup on Saturday when they take on Exonia on neutral ground at Alton before the mixed side comes up against Desborough on Sunday, with two rinks playing at home and two away.

Ely will be bolstered by having England internationals Greg Harlow and Nicky Brett in two for both matches, and they will be joined by Commonwealth Games gold medallist Ellen Falkner in the Egham tie.

Team captain Matt Marsden is hopeful Ely can come through in both competitions.

He said: "We've played Exonia in years gone by and they've resurfaced this year after a few years out of reaching the final stages.

"I've been vocal a number of times about Desborough and nothing has changed. We managed to beat them last year, which was great, and hopefully we can repeat that again."

Squads – Denny: M Marsden, J Easy, I Brown, A Easy; M Jackman, D Moss, D Spring, G Harlow; R Elmore, I McWhinney, J Smyth, A Ware; B Akroyd, C Falkner, S Popple, N Brett. **Egham:** Home – K Harlow, M Marsden, S Seymour, G Harlow; E Falkner, J Denny, I Brown, A Easy. Away – S Matthews, C Popple, D Spring, A Ware; S Gove, S Alexander, S Popple, N Brett.

KORFBALL

DOUBLE: Littleport Lions' teams claimed successes in their latest respective home matches. Lions II beat Vikings IV 14-6 and their thirds won 8-5 against Cambridge City IV. The win keeps Lions II at the top of Cambridgeshire League, Division Three. Nicola Clarke top-scored for Lions, with five goals as she appeared in both games. Meanwhile, Laura Neaves and Danny Mathie are pictured in Lions' new kit, sponsored by LG Car Sales.

TABLE TENNIS

Dinkele does the business for Imps

HARVEY Dinkele registered a maximum as he guided Impington I to a 7-3 success against Ely I in Ely & District League, Division One.

He was well supported by Pierre Barnard and Reno Phyo, who secured two wins apiece, while Kieran Mohan was Ely's best player.

Andrew Maguire secured three singles wins for Ely II against Ellesmere I, but he could not prevent his side going down 6-4.

Only Ashley Rowe managed to offer him support with a straight-sets victory over Aldo Galea.

Two-man Soham lost 8-2 against Fulbourn II, while Roger Fensom achieved his singles maximum and then took the doubles with Peter Goatly over Nick Rains and Kelvin Mitchell when Elsworth I beat NCI by 6-4.

In Division Two, Colin Adams and Tony Taylor proved too strong and consistent for Ely III as they steered Impington II to a 7-3 triumph.

Kin Choi Chan was the main man for Soham Comrades II, winning his three singles and then the doubles with Bela Szabo as his team defeated an Ely side 8-2.

Fulbourn IV beat Soham Comrades III 6-4 thanks to a trio of three-set wins for Hamish Ryder, two wins from Danny Bates and one from Jon Chapman.

The Comrades' trio of Alan Chambers, Lito Jumilla and Mark Coles all scored one each before Chambers and Coles took the doubles over Bates and Ryder.

In Division Three, Fulbourn VI got their second consecutive win and were helped by maximums from Alison Cooke and Tim Hands against Soham Comrades VI.

They then joined forces to win the doubles against Phil Gannon and Edward Garrett-Jones in the 7-3 success.

Fulbourn's Helen Clarke took Gannon to five close sets and Geoff Powell to four, but she could not get her name on the scoreboard.

And three wins from Steve Jugg and doubles from Steve Foulger and Robin Gammon helped Countess beat Ellesmere II 7-3.

BOXING

Sadjadi is a hit on his debut for Haddenham

POURIA Sadjadi clinched victory in his maiden outing for Haddenham & Ely in front of a home crowd at their first show of the season.

The former Cambridge boxer was having his first bout for more than a year at Ely College, but it did not show as he came through on a unanimous decision against R Walker from London's Gator club.

Southpaw Sadjadi, having his first contest without a headguard, proved too much for Walker, with coach Mike Sawyer pleased with his new fighter's display.

He said: "That was a cracking bout and Pouria looked very good.

"He tired a bit in the third round and didn't box in quite the same way, but I thought he did well, especially as it was his first bout without a headguard.

"I think he has still got a lot of improvement to make, but his performance pleased me very much."

But Haddenham boxers did not have a great deal of luck when it came to being on the right side of split verdicts with Jay Moore, Nathan Smith and Callum Francis all failing to convince every judge they had done enough.

Moore lost his rematch with Sonny Hardy, having beaten the Chalvedon puncher on his debut last season, and Smith and Francis went down against Hardy's clubmates F Cooper and L Brooks respectively.

However, Sawyer said he felt the trio were unfortunate not to get the nod.

He said: "They all boxed really well and they were all good little bouts.

"I thought Nathan has won and I was very disappointed for Callum to lose on a split decision.

"Jay's bout could have gone either way, but I think it was a toss of a coin for all of them.

"I'm used to it now if it doesn't go your way, but I always say to the boys it's about improving, not winning, and that's what I most want to see from them."

Super-heavyweight Ben Saunderson was stopped in the second round of his clash with Whittlesey hitter K Buckley.

Sawyer said: "It was a good bout and I was hoping he'd go all three rounds because it was a fair match, but the other boy was a bit more experienced.

"Ben was lacking fitness and I think once he has got fit, he's going to be okay."

Meanwhile, Riley Smith earned a bye to the England Youth Championships quarter-finals after his scheduled opponent Max Seymour failed to show for their Eastern Counties under-69kg final.

He will discover who he faces in a draw for the last eight at Newcastle on February 20.

If Riley Smith, who caused an upset by beating former Three Nations Junior and Schoolboys ABA champion Ryan Adair in the Mid-Anglia final, makes it through the quarters, he will face semi-finals and finals over the remainder of that weekend.

YOUTH FOOTBALL

Huckle nets a brace

JOSH Huckle got two as Haddenham Rovers beat Stretham Sporting Blue 5-1 in Cambridge & District Colts League 13B.

Lewis Chapman, Finley Harley and Lewis Perry added one apiece.

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EXIT: Joe Perry lost to Ronnie O'Sullivan in Germany

Perry staying upbeat despite O'Sullivan loss

JOE Perry is still targeting a first major ranking event title, despite failing to live with a rampant Ronnie O'Sullivan at the German Masters in Berlin.

Perry struggled to match the heavy scoring of his opponent as he went down 5-0 in their second round encounter at the Tempodrom.

The result means a heart-breaking 10-9 loss to practice partner Neil Robertson in the Wuxi Classic final last June is still the closest the Chatteris potter has coming to winning one of the big ranking titles, having enjoyed success in two of the minor ranking Asian Tour events.

And although breaks of 81, 95 and 134 gave Perry little chance of living with O'Sullivan in Berlin, the world No 13 refuses to be too downhearted about the result.

"I never assess my form against someone like Ronnie – he is the best, he's capable of doing that to anybody and you don't have to play badly to lose to him," said Perry.

"I don't feel as though I made too many mistakes to be honest – a couple of slight errors and it's 5-0 in an hour.

"I'm still happy with where my form is and I'm confident going into the next tournament.

"At the stage I'm at in my career, I'm still searching for that big, ranking event win so I'll be trying to do that this season, but if not I'll just plod on and try to do it next year."

Perry's next event is the Welsh Open at Cardiff's Motorpoint Arena, which begins on Monday.

The 40-year-old has been drawn against Lee Page in the first round.

■ British Eurosport is the Home of Snooker, showing 19 tournaments per season including the World Championship, UK Championship the Masters and all other ranking events. Available on Sky, Virgin Media & BT TV or online/mobile via eurosportplayer.com

Milne boot leads Ely to crucial win in Norfolk

ALEX Milne kicked three penalties to help Ely seal a 21-5 win at Wymondham in Greene King IPA Eastern Counties One.

The hosts got the first try of the half, crashing the ball up the middle with a missed tackle allowing them to get an unconverted try.

Milne kicked three points to get Ely on the board, and near the end of the half, Mark Ryder picked up from the back of a scrum to sprint over for a converted try to make it 10-5.

A signature Mitchell Kennett try from a crash ball from a penalty move was the only touch down of the second half, with Ely's win secured by two more penalties from Milne.

The win went a long way to securing Ely second place in the table as Newmarket lost 37-19 at Mersea Island. Ely have a nine-point lead over their rivals.

Stone salutes Robins progress after draw

ELY gained another valuable point in their fight against relegation from the Thurlow Nunn League, Premier Division with a 2-2 draw at Ipswich Wanderers last Saturday.

The hosts led 1-0 at the interval, but Ely were back on level terms on the hour when Richard Gammon beat the Ipswich keeper while one-on-one.

Dovydas Kairys then fired them into the lead with a superb 30-yard strike, but Ipswich managed to grab an equaliser eight minutes from time.

Nevertheless, boss Brady Stone was pleased with his side's performance.

"It shows how far we have come since we lost 7-0 to them at home," said Stone.

The Robins manager is also pleased with how Histon foursome Kairys, Michael King, Aysa Ourtilbour and Max Marguire have performed on loan.

"They've done well and they have made the other players step up too," said Stone.

On Tuesday, Ely suffered a 5-0 defeat at home to Norwich United.

Meanwhile, Steve Fallon was left to rue a lacklustre second half showing as Soham went down away 2-1 to Barkingside in the Ryman League, North Division last Saturday.

Dan Brown fired Soham ahead in the 22nd minute, but two second-half goals saw the hosts take victory.

"It summed up how we are at the moment," said Soham boss Fallon.

"We played well in the first half, but in the second half they seemed to want it more."

Soham went down 2-0 to Redbridge on Tuesday night.

The hosts scored on 26 and 84 minutes, with Luke Stanley hitting the post for Soham.

Ely News 50p

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Published and printed by the proprietors, Cambridge Newspapers, a division of Local World Ltd.

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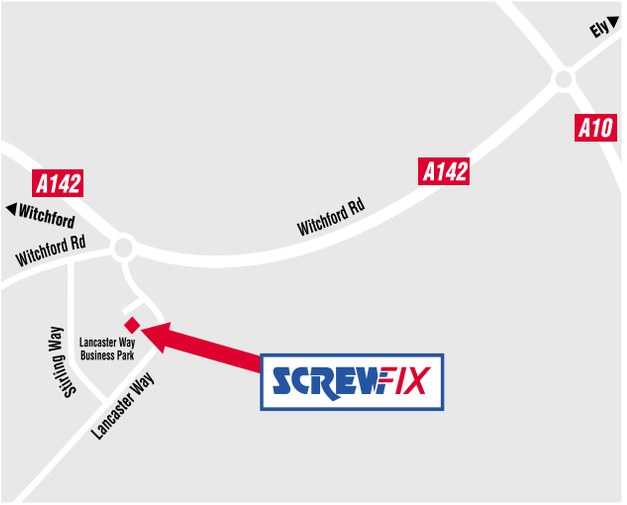

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